

Tabbaa urges Arab investments

KUWAIT (Petra) — Ministry of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa has called on Arab investors to take advantage of the encouraging investment opportunities in Jordan noting that Jordanian laws do not differentiate between a Jordanian and any Arab citizen, a report in the Kuwaiti Arabic daily Al Watan said Tuesday. The paper quoted Tabbaa as saying that Arab investors could set up their own businesses in Jordan. He noted that the restoration of peace in the Gulf region would create greater demand for Jordanian products in Iraqi markets. Tabbaa voiced optimism that the economic situation would improve in Jordan as a result of the recent political developments in the region and the latest Jordanian economic measures. The paper quoted Tabbaa as saying: "After the cessation of the Iran-Iraq war and the adoption of new economic measures, as well as after rearranging our Jordanian house, we now feel that Jordan will witness a new economic movement."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

'Thousands of Sudanese dying'

LONDON (R) — Thousands of women and children are dying of starvation in Sudan and British relief workers said Tuesday they fear the toll will rise as more refugees flee the civil war. The warning from Oxfam came as the governor of the province of Equatoria, Morris Lawry, said tens of thousands of people are fleeing floods in south Sudan. An Oxfam spokeswoman said as many as 280 people were dying daily from hunger and disease. "It is an extremely serious situation. People are dying by the hundreds, it was being going on for many months. More resources are needed," she said. Oxfam and other relief agencies fear thousands more will starve to death as they take to the roads to escape the five-year-old war. Some of the £4 million (\$6.76 million) raised by British groups to aid victims of this summer's floods in Sudan will now be used for refugees from the south, Oxfam said. The war and a disruption of agriculture have forced at least three million southerners — half the estimated population — to flee to other parts of Sudan or to Ethiopia.

Volume 13 Number 3869

AMMAN WEDNESDAY AUGUST 31, 1988. MUHARRAM 18, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

AROUND THE WORLD...

U.S. accuses Soviets of Afghan breach

WASHINGTON (R) — The State department Tuesday accused the Soviet Union of breaching Geneva peace accords in Afghanistan by sending bombers from Soviet territory to hit targets near Kanduz. "It is clear that Soviet bombers have been involved... in our view, this is a violation of the Geneva accords," State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said at a news briefing. "We have heard reports that the fighting is continuous and that Kanduz is under aerial bombardment," Oakley said. "Some, but not all, (the bombers) have come from airfields within the Soviet Union. In our view, this is a violation," she said. In Moscow, the official Soviet news agency TASS made no immediate comment on the State Department allegations, although earlier Tuesday it reported that the situation was returning to normal in the province of Kanduz.

Iraq briefs Kuwait, S. Arabia

BAHRA N (R) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, briefing Arab Gulf leaders on Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva, flew to Saudi Arabia Tuesday, the Saudi Press Agency reported. Ramadan, who arrived from Kuwait at Jeddah, delivered a message to King Fahd from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the agency said. The agency gave no details. Ramadan earlier Tuesday delivered a message to the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, from President Hussein. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said the letter dealt with recent developments in the region and the Geneva peace talks.

Khaddam holds talks with Rassi

DAMASCUS (R) — Lebanese Interior Minister Abdallah Al Rassi met Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam Tuesday amid efforts to hold a new presidential election in Lebanon, diplomats said. They said Syria was still determined to see a smooth transition of power to President Amin Gemayel's successor. Efforts were being intensified to ensure security for a new election and a date might be set next week, the diplomats said.

Walesa to meet government minister

GDANSK, Poland (R) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa will hold talks Wednesday with Polish Interior Minister General Czeslaw Kiszczak, a senior Solidarity adviser said Tuesday. Tadeusz Mazowiecki told reporters Walesa would meet Kiszczak and a representative of the Roman Catholic Church in Warsaw (see page 8).

Greece expects Turkish gesture

NICOSIA (AP) — Greek Foreign Minister Carolas Papoulas said Tuesday he expects Turkey to make a goodwill gesture towards reuniting Cyprus by withdrawing troops from the north of the island. Papoulas, in Cyprus for two days of talks with government officials and opposition leaders, also said that Greece was prepared to help Cyprus join the European Economic Community (EEC). "Any positive progress in Greek-Turkish relations goes through Cyprus," he told a news conference. "An expression of goodwill must come from Turkey, especially the withdrawal of the Turkish forces of occupation," he said.

Casualty toll reaches 90 in Iran floods

NICOSIA (AP) — The casualty toll from last week's flooding in the mountains east of Tehran has reached 90, Tehran Radio reported Tuesday. The unidentified head of the Red Crescent in the region around the mountain town of Damavand, 50 kilometres east of Tehran, was quoted as saying 90 people were either killed, wounded or missing.

Church envoy meets Sheikh Khaled

BEIRUT (AP) — Church of England Bishop John Brown met with Grand Mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled, spiritual leader of Lebanon's Sunni Muslims, Tuesday in his effort to free foreign hostages held by extremists. The Right Rev. John Brown, bishop of the Gulf and Cyprus, was scheduled to leave Lebanon late Tuesday after spending two days in Lebanon to seek word on the fate of four missing Iraqis. He was in Tehran earlier. Brown, planning to travel to London via Cyprus, said he would not comment on any results until he briefed Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie.

Turkey sends message to Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Nuzhet Kandemir left Tuesday after delivering a message on bilateral relations to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. It said the message was from Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

Iraqi minister heads for France

BAGHDAD (R) — Saddam Hamadi, Iraq's minister of state for foreign affairs, left Tuesday for Paris on his first visit to a Western permanent member of the U.N. Security Council since his appointment last month. He told the Iraqi News Agency he would discuss with the French officials "bilateral developing relations and issues of mutual interest."

'U.S., Iran exchanged 15 secret messages'

NEW YORK (AP) — The United States and Iran exchanged more than 15 secret messages last spring regarding the reestablishment of relations and other subjects, according to a report being published this week. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani, interviewed by the New Yorker magazine in mid-June, said the messages were exchanged over the previous two months. "It is our understanding that the United States wants to keep them confidential, and we honour that," Larijani said of the messages between the two countries. However, he added, "the messages deal with potential for relations and with the whole region."

Bomb on Khyber mail train kills three

ISLAMABAD (R) — A bomb blast in the luggage van of the Khyber mail train killed three Pakistanis and injured 13 near Islamabad Tuesday, a local official said. More than 250 people have been killed in the last 18 months in bomb attacks blamed by Pakistani officials on secret agents of the Soviet-backed Afghan government.

Japan's Gulf beacon system goes ahead

ABU DHABI (AP) — Japan will go ahead with its scheme to instal a navigational aid system along the Gulf coast despite the Gulf war ceasefire, a Japanese diplomat said Tuesday. "The system will still be useful as a non-military means to facilitate safe navigation for merchant vessels in the Gulf against not only mines, but also natural hazards," said Kunio Katakura, the Japanese ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. The \$10 million scheme proposed and financed by Japan, which imports 51.7 per cent of its oil from the region, involves building 24 advanced British-made coastal radar beacons to help ships determine their locations.

Khomeini says war not over

Iran, Iraq discuss compromise formula

GENEVA (Agencies) — Iraqi and Iranian officials Tuesday discussed a three-point compromise plan advanced by the United Nations in an effort to get flagging Gulf peace talks past the first point of the agenda, conference sources said.

"There is a formula to bridge the gap being discussed," U.N. spokesman Francois Giuliani told reporters.

The two sides, accusing each other of bad faith, have not met face-to-face for four days despite promises of direct negotiations. Their legal and military experts have conducted much of the negotiations and met U.N. officials late Tuesday again to try to narrow fundamental differences.

"We are still trying to clear the first part of point one," said the mediator, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. "This (war) is a very difficult problem. You cannot expect to solve it in a matter of three, four or five days."

The agenda for the talks is

U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, whose first point demands a ceasefire and then a withdrawal of forces.

A U.N. ceasefire took effect Aug. 20 and is largely being respected after eight years of war, but differences over discussing two topics related to the ceasefire have prevented the talks from moving to other issues.

Diplomats said the three-point plan was designed to give each side an immediate benefit while enabling the talks to move on to the other sections of 598.

They said the compromise plan specified the withdrawal of forces and a U.N. survey of what was

(Continued on page 2)

Palestinians launch new strike against expulsions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip launched a two-day strike to protest expulsions and hospital officials said Israeli troops wounded six Palestinians during a stone-throwing protest in the West Bank city of Nablus.

The strike in the occupied territories and Arab Jerusalem was the fifth such protest in 10 days.

The city of Nablus was the scene of the most violent protests after a five-day curfew was lifted at dawn. Activists hung Palestinian flags from the top of the city's main Nasr Mosque and from electrical wires.

U.N. welcomes U.S. decision in PLO case

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United Nations secretary-general has welcomed the American decision not to appeal a court ruling against Washington's move to close the U.N. mission of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In a short statement released at the U.N. headquarters here by a spokeswoman, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said: "The United Nations welcomes the decision of the United States not to appeal the judgment of the federal district court for the southern district of New York."

"The dispute between the United Nations and its host country on the PLO observer mission has thus come to an end."

The PLO hailed as "a great victory" Monday's decision by the U.S. Justice Department not to appeal against the court ruling that allows its U.N. mission to continue to function.

S. Africa completes Angola withdrawal

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The military flew journalists to the Angolan border Tuesday to watch the last South African troops withdraw from the war-torn country into Namibia.

In Namibia, military officials said security forces in the past week killed 14 guerrillas fighting to end South African rule over the territory. South African forces also staged their first-ever amphibious landing exercise Tuesday on the Namibian coast.

The pullout from Angola is part of a ceasefire agreement intended to clear the way for withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and independence for Namibia.

Journalists were flown to Rundu, on the Namibia-Angola border, to witness the final stages of the withdrawal of troops who have been inside Angola since early 1987.

An estimated 2,500 South African troops in Angola have been leaving since a ceasefire was declared Aug. 8.

Some 50,000 Cuban troops support the Angolan government in its 13-year-old war against guerrillas of UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola). South Africa

and the United States back UNITA.

UNITA is not party to the ceasefire and was excluded from the recent series of peace talks held by South Africa, Cuba and Angola under U.S. mediation.

There have been unconfirmed reports that South Africa has been reinforcing its line of bases in northern Namibia.

Namibia's South African-led territorial army said Tuesday that 14 South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrillas have been killed in the past week. SWAPO, considered likely to take power if independence elections are held, has said it will observe a ceasefire in Namibia starting Thursday if South Africa reciprocates.

South Africa says it will begin withdrawing from Namibia Nov. 1 and allow the territory to hold independence elections next June 1 if Cuban troops have left Angola.

The four countries involved in the negotiations met last week in Brazzaville, Congo, but failed to agree on a timetable for Cuban withdrawal from Angola and Namibian independence. More talks are planned for Brazzaville next week.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday visits the Third Royal Armoured Division (Petra photo)

King inspects army training, receives batch of graduates

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday watched military exercises performed by units of the Third Royal Armoured Division and was briefed on the exercises and training programmes by field commanders.

The exercises included target shooting with live ammunition and field exercises in which helicopters and fighter aircraft took part.

The King inspected troop positions and expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted in the exercises. He urged the troops to "pursue endeavours in training so that the Armed Forces can serve as a strong shield protecting the Arab Nation."

Attending the exercises with the King were Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal

Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, senior officers, delegations from Arab countries and teachers and students from Jordanian universities.

King Hussein also met Tuesday with the second batch of graduates from the Royal War College and exchanged views with them on a number of issues and wished them success in their career.

The graduates had lunch with the King. Prime Minister and Defence Minister Zaid Rifa, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ud Ibn Zaid, Field Marshal Sharif Zaid, Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Talch, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force and the commander of the Royal War College attended the meeting and lunch.

UAE daily lauds Jordan's step as boost to Palestinian cause

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank was lauded as supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people, the Al Itihad daily of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said Tuesday.

The newspaper expressed hope that Jordanian-Palestinian meetings would continue and said that the Palestinian cause would remain the most important national issue for Jordan and the rest of the Arab World.

The paper said: "Israeli efforts to undermine the brotherly Jordanian-Palestinian relations by claiming that the Jordanian decision has contributed to damaging the relations between the two peoples have failed."

"All statements made by Jordanian officials in this regard confirmed that the Jordanian decision was taken in response to Palestinian and Arab demands and that the disengagement of legal and administrative relations is not aimed to disengage from the Palestine question," it said.

"12-member government"

The Beirut-based Arab World Weekly said Tuesday that Palestinian legal officials had drafted a plan for a 12-member government to be headed by Yasser Arafat.

The independent newsletter, which reports on Arab opinion around the Middle East, said: "No final decision has yet been taken on whether the projected team will be a provisional government or a government-in-exile, but there are indications that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will opt for the provisional formula."

The publication named the 11 members to work with Arafat as George Habash, Navef Hawatme, Hanna Siniora, Fayed Abu Rahme, Elias Freij, Edward Said, Ibrahim Abu Lughod, Walid Khalidi, Zehdi Terzi, Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh and Khaled Al Hassan.

The weekly News Digest said the declaration could also include a recognition of the existence of Israel.

Israel objected Tuesday to Perez de Cuellar's reference to the Israeli-occupied West Bank

It said Hassan would replace Farouq Kaddoumi, the PLO's present foreign relations chief.

Kuwait's Al Qabas newspaper in an interview published Monday said that the PLO would make the announcement in September, when the Palestine National Council (PNC) meets in Algiers.

Arafat would say: "The government can be proclaimed at any time now, but no official announcement will be made by PLO leader Yasser Arafat until after a PLO delegation has visited the United Nations and met U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to hand him copies of the Palestinian constitution and declaration and get his approval."

The weekly News Digest said the declaration could also include a recognition of the existence of Israel.

Israel objected Tuesday to Perez de Cuellar's reference to the Israeli-occupied West Bank

Police said Syrian troops sealed off the blast site and only allowed rescue teams and fire fighters to pass.

As with the earlier bombings, there was no responsibility claim for Tuesday's explosion.

The latest attack came as Syria renewed discussions with Lebanese officials and the United States to ensure a smooth presidential election in Lebanon.

Lebanon failed to elect a new head of state Aug. 18 to succeed President Amin Gemayel whose six-year term ends on Sept. 23. The election was adjourned indefinitely.

Commandos, Israeli forces clash in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli troops and allied Lebanese militiamen clashed with four Palestinian commandos who tried to cross the border into Israel Tuesday, security sources said.

The sources told Reuters two fighters were seized by militia members of the South Lebanon Army (SLA), one fled injured and one was unaccounted for.

The sources said the two sides clashed at dawn at the village of Halta inside Israel's self-declared South Lebanon "security zone" and four kilometres from the border.

"The arrested fighters said they were members of the Palestinian

Popular Struggle Front (PSF) and had travelled from the Bekaa Valley to the zone to carry out an attack inside Israel," one source said.

They said the fighters were armed with machineguns, rocket-propelled and hand grenades, and pistols fitted with silencers.

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli army said two of the fighters involved in the clash were captured.

An army spokesman said Israeli soldiers assisted SLA troops who spotted the four at Halta.

Blast in Chitaura

A carbomb exploded in the

Syrian-controlled town of Chitaura in the Bekaa Valley Tuesday wounding at least five people, police said.

They said a Volvo, laden with explosives, blew up at 12.55 p.m. (1055 GMT) in front of a bank in the crowded central area of Chitaura, 45 kilometres east of Beirut.

The carbomb was the 12th in Lebanon this year. By police count, 103 people were killed and 371 wounded in the earlier bombings.

The highway where the carbomb exploded Tuesday links the Bekaa Valley with Beirut and is the main route used by the Syrian army to supply its forces in west

Beirut.

Police said Syrian troops sealed off the blast site and only allowed rescue teams and fire fighters to pass.

As with the earlier bombings, there was no responsibility claim for Tuesday's explosion.

The latest attack came as Syria renewed discussions with Lebanese officials and the United States to ensure a smooth presidential election in Lebanon.

Lebanon failed to elect a new head of state Aug. 18 to succeed President Amin Gemayel whose six-year term ends on Sept. 23. The election was adjourned indefinitely.

Subroto: Gulf peace will boost OPEC

NICOSIA (AP) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Secretary-General Subroto said Tuesday that ending the Iran-Iraq war would strengthen the oil group, but he gave no clue whether Iran had agreed to let its foe have an oil production quota equal to its own.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, said Subroto, Indonesia's former energy minister, made the comments after a meeting with President Ali Khamenei in Tehran.

Subroto arrived Monday from Kuwait seeking to persuade Iran to agree to allow Iraq an OPEC quota of at least 2.39 million barrels a day.

Iran has refused to accept a quota of 1.5 million barrels a day, about half its current output, and insists on parity with Iran.

The deadlock, with Iraq pumping an estimated 2.5 million bar-

rels a day to boost its revenues and repair its war-damaged economy, has worsened the problem of over-production by some OPEC member states.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), a respected oil industry weekly published in Nicosia, said Monday that the output by the 13-member group this month was around 20 million barrels a day.

That's about 3.5 million barrels a day over OPEC's overall production quota and was seen as a key factor in depressing world oil prices.

IRNA quoted Khamenei as saying that OPEC members should strictly adhere to their quotas. But he too made no direct mention of the issue of Iraq's quota.

But he did note that among Iran's prime concerns were OPEC unity and resolving the organisation's problems.

Subroto was expected to fly to Baghdad through Kuwait Wednesday.

He had talks Monday with Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Azagadeh.

IRNA said Subroto briefed Azagadeh on his earlier visits to Venezuela, Ecuador, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Kuwait on the over-production issue. But it gave no details.

OPEC overcame a major stumbling block to its efforts to impose production discipline earlier this month after Venezuela dropped its veto against giving Iraq a quota equal to Iran's.

Eleven of the OPEC states now agree to that. Iran is now the only holdout.

MEES speculated that Subroto would stress to the Iranians that allowing Iraq quota party would help brake Baghdad's production, now and in the future.

With the United Nations-spon-

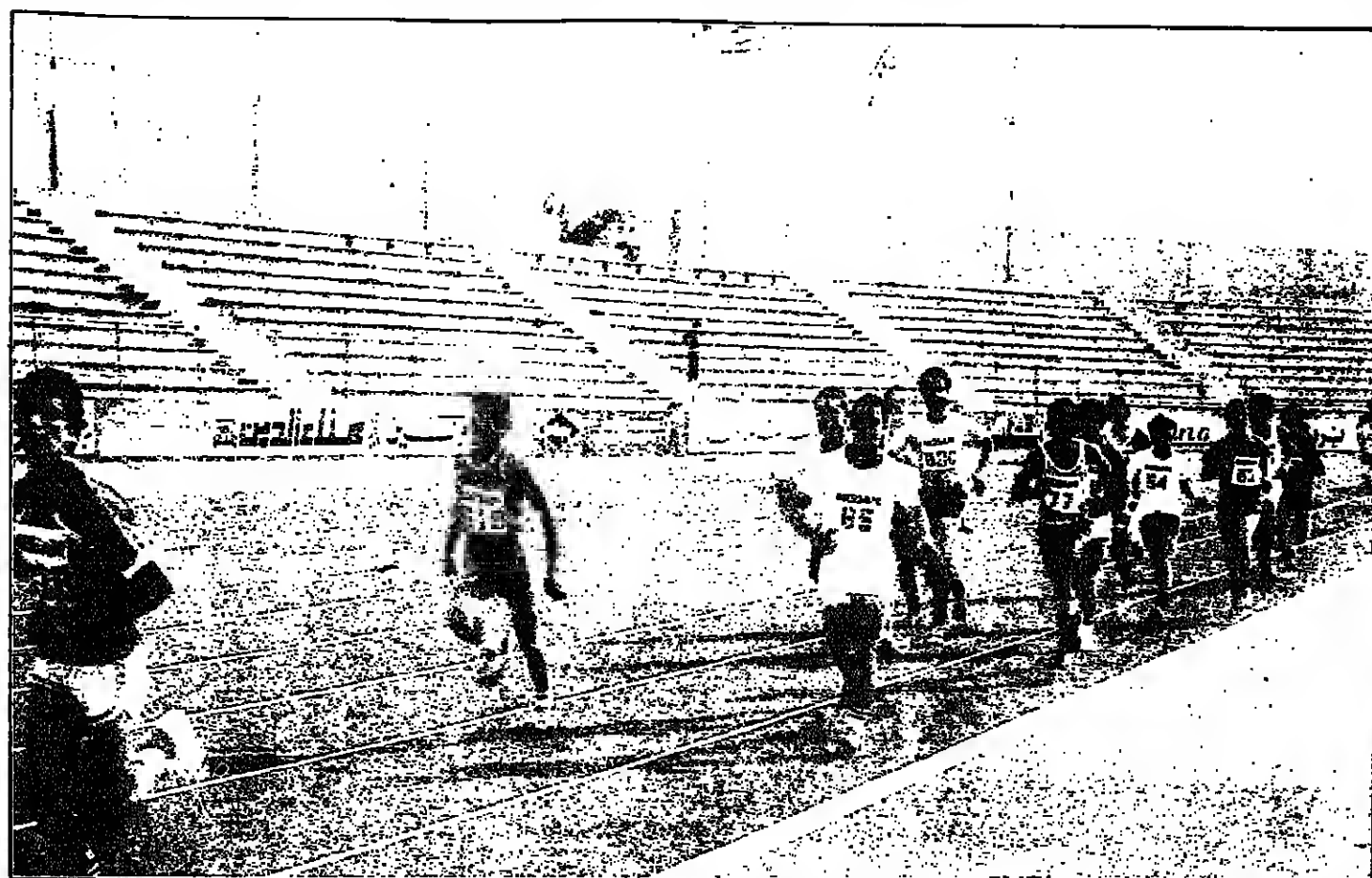
sored Aug. 20 ceasefire apparently holding, Iraq and Iran have both started repairing oil facilities damaged in the nearly eight years of fighting.

Oil industry sources believe that Iraq will be able to install makeshift oil loading terminals in the northern Gulf within a few months, allowing it to boost its export capacity by one million barrels a day.

Iraq is also expanding its export pipeline network, which would increase its production capacity to more than three million barrels a day by the end of the decade.

The Iranians for their part are repairing the heavily bombed Kharg Island terminal, which accounts for 90 per cent of their oil exports.

MEES said Tehran seeks to restore full export capacity there by November.



Despite the availability of sports facilities, the multitude of sports federations and their uncoordinated policies have hindered preparations for the Olympics

Good ambassadors to the world

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's chances of winning medals at the September Olympics in Seoul are almost nil.

According to Jordan's Olympic Committee Secretary General Muwaffaq Al Fawaz, the most that the Jordanian team can do is present its members as "good ambassadors to the world."

He explained that given the limitations on sports in the country, nothing more can be expected from the athletic delegation.

"Our participation in the Seoul Olympics is a token participation," Fawaz told the Jordan Times. "We are taking part but we are not expecting to come back with any medals," even though participation would give the athletes considerable experience, Fawaz added.

Fawaz, who is head of the Jordanian delegation to Seoul, said Jordan's decision to take part in the Olympics was based on several factors including political and social ties, legal and financial considerations.

"On the governmental level, the Korean and Jordanian ties are such that we cannot but participate in the Olympics," Fawaz said. "By attending the Olympics we will also strengthen the social ties between the Jordanian and (South) Korean people," he added.

He said that being a member of the International Olympic Committee, Jordan would face sanctions by the committee if it did not participate in the games. The Kingdom would stand to lose

\$15,000 which it receives annually from the Olympic Solidarity Fund (OSF), according to Fawaz.

Several reasons account for Jordan's minimal chances of making Olympic achievement in the Seoul games. To start with, Jordan's decision to participate in the Olympics was taken as late as April 5 this year. The games start September 17.

"The preparation (of the athletes for the next games) should start immediately after each Olympic games," Fawaz said. "This is the case in most countries."

According to Fawaz, the absence of consistent policies among the athletic federations in the country has affected Jordan's chances at the Olympics.

"The government does not take sports seriously," Fawaz said. "The only consistency (in sports policies) is found among

the sports clubs, and not among the sports federations which are responsible for training, but which frequently undergo leadership changes," he added.

The other reason cited by Fawaz was the lack of funds necessary for proper preparation and training.

"Our participation is modest because of the lack of funds," Fawaz said, adding that this year, a sum of JD 10,000 (approximately \$30,000) was budgeted for the Olympic committee, an amount which accounts for 70 per cent of the committee's funds. The remaining 30 per cent are covered by non-governmental contributions such as the OSF, according to Fawaz. A sum of JD 20,000 was allocated for the delegation's trip to Seoul — the delegation includes nine athletes, three coaches, a doctor, an international referee, a journalist and an

administrator.

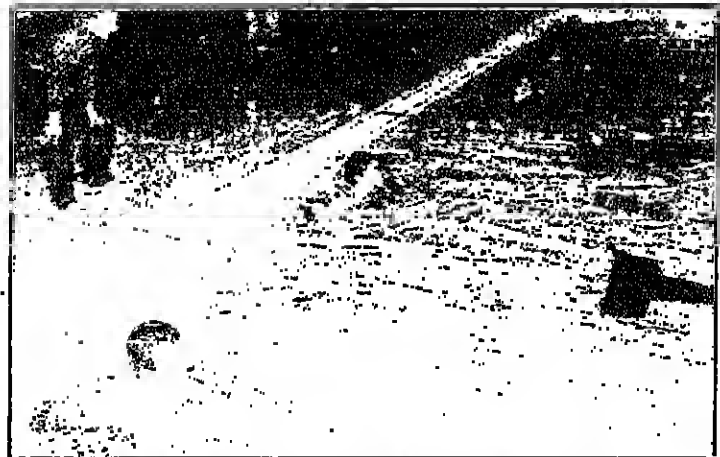
Two female athletes are participating in table tennis and archery. The male athletes are taking part in wrestling, boxing, and fencing. Two Jordanians will take part in taekwondo demonstrations, which unfortunately for Jordanians, is still considered an exhibition game at the Olympics.

During the 10th Asian games, Jordanian athletes earned 3 silver and one bronze medal and came in 16th place from a total of 34 countries, Fawaz said.

At Seoul, the delegation is not expected to stay until the end of the games, a sign of how certain the team is of not winning any medals. "After all, there are 12,000 athletes competing for 69 medals," Fawaz commented.

The one positive thing about taking part in the games, according to Fawaz, is that the young athletes, 24 or below, will gain considerable experience and may perform better at the 1992 games.

For the time being however, Fawaz suggested a few solutions: Sufficient funds should be allocated to enable sports federations to spread sports activities all over the Kingdom; sports centres should be set up all over the country and at different levels; time and quality-wise, sports should be given more importance in schools; incentives should be given to athletes, be it at school or at university, so that they feel the time spent on sports is not compensated. Athletes should be able to see what the prospects for their future are, should they choose to take sports seriously.



Swimming is a favoured sport among Jordanian youths

Arab theatre and the Palestinian cause

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab playwrights throughout the Arab World have not done justice to the Palestinian cause for more than 70 years, preferring to avoid the issue altogether or referring to it briefly in their works, said a well-known Palestinian playwright while claiming not to be a critic of the Arab theatre. Abdul Latif Akel assailed the role Arab playwrights have played in promoting the cause of the Palestinians as a human being. "They write about symbols, like rocks, but what about the person holding the rock," said Akel to an audience at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

"Enough of symbolism. Why don't we turn our attention to the obvious?" asked Akel, citing an example of a possible scenario: "When 12 homes were demolished in Bieta, what happened to the family members, an average of 12 in each family? We can use this incident to see how a mother changes from first advising her child not to throw stones, to telling her child to join the other children in the street throwing stones, to picking up a stone, and finally to encouraging her neighbours to throw stones."

Outraged, he told the audience that when six soldiers hit a child, foreigners and even Israelis felt pity, "while we sat and discussed." Other incidents which have not been recorded include: Israeli soldiers putting a tear gas bomb in a Palestinian child's mouth and a mother leaving her home to buy some sandwiches only to find her son shot where he was sitting inside their house.

"These are all part of the Palestinian experience," according to Akel, who presently lives in Nabulus in the West Bank. 80 per cent of the Palestinian people do not watch the "glittery" shows on television. "Most of the Palestinians ask 'Isn't my story

important enough to be told?' " He pointed to some Arab playwrights' works, such as Syrian Duraid Lahham's "Daya'at Tishrin," as plays on the Palestinian cause. However, he does not believe that those authors have portrayed the "real" struggle of the Palestinians.

"Nayef, the hero of 'Daya'at Tishrin', does not change nor does he get hurt throughout the play," said Akel. Akel found this disheartening. He believes that a well-known playwright such as Lahham who attracts large audiences should present a play of a higher calibre showing "what conditions the Palestinians are really facing."

One member of the audience said that it is difficult for Arab writers to portray the conditions of the Palestinians if they are not living in the occupied territories. Akel agreed that it would have been difficult for him to believe some of the stories about Palestinian struggle if he hadn't seen "it with my own eyes."

He added, however, that "the Palestinian issue is an Arab concern. I do not see a film named 'The Refugee Camp', for example, and you do not have to be there to write topic like this."

But Akel does not place full blame on the limited concern of

the writers themselves. He believes that politics have been an obstacle in many cases. During the first three months of the intifada, the American press covered events "word by word." Then, when Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir visited the USA, "he shut the tap on the media" and it is only recently that the American media have returned to their former coverage of the intifada "because the intifada (is not subsiding)," Akel said.

He further remarked, in response to a question "just as the people in the occupied territories did not ask permission to have an intifada, so the writers should not wait for permission either."

Noting some playwrights' claim that "people want to be happy and don't want to see any misery," Akel replied "we can't condemn them. After all, the mass media play a big role — the oxygen they put out is what people inhale."

He referred to the means to which Israeli writers resorted in planting their cause. "They used every way possible. The book 'The Exodus' flooded the American and European markets, they made movies and plays about their 'cause,' and they put a lot of money into advertising about them."

For his part, Akel has written seven poetry collections, four plays and five academic works on the Palestinian cause. His latest work "Al Balad Talb Abliha," took two months to complete and concentrated fully on the Palestinian experience. "This play is a response to the lack of response from theatres around the Arab World," he said.

Five of the six acts of the play deal with the events which led up to the intifada. Akel emphasises the simplicity of the Palestinian individual and the inability of the Israelis to provoke them into headlong violence. "This factor has been essential in the Palestinians' success. They (the Palestinians) have not given the Israelis the excuse they are looking for in order to deport or kill them."

In the sixth and last act Akel shows how the awareness which existed before the intifada transcends itself into a new awareness, and how the intifada evolved from spontaneity to organisation. "The stone remained a stone, but the people won't stop fighting until a state is created. The Palestinians have reached a point of no return."

At the end of his lecture Akel made one request of Arab playwrights — "not to leave the Palestinian struggling alone since they depend on outside support."



Dr. As'ad Abdul Rahman Monday introduces Professor Abdul Latif Akel to the audience at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation

Iran, Iraq discuss compromise formula

(Continued from page 1)

necessary to clear rusting ships and mines from the disputed Shatt Al Arab waterway which lies between the two countries at the head of the Gulf.

A third point related to freedom of navigation in the Gulf, seeking to answer Iraqi complaints that since Iran was still claiming the right to inspect Iraqi ships it was not extending the ceasefire to the sea.

On Monday, Perez de Cuellar met representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union — to brief them on the difficult negotia-

tions. Spokesman Giuliani told his evening press briefing that technical experts from the two delegations continued to work, but that a top-level meeting was not expected as yet.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati declared Tuesday his side would make no "concessions."

Velayati blamed Iraq in an interview with the AP for blocking progress, saying "the main problem is the raising of new preconditions by Iraq."

He said these included a demand for the clearing of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, coupled with the unilateral abrogation by Iraq

of the 1975 Algiers treaty placing the southern border of the two states down the middle of the wide river.

"Iraq demands full sovereignty over the waterway and shifting the border to the eastern Iranian bank."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said Monday the channel should be cleared as soon as possible to balance the advantage gained by Iran since the ceasefire.

Velayati's tough stand was an echo of an even tougher position proclaimed by Iranian patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Tehran Tuesday. He was quoted by the official Islamic Republic News Agency as saying that the

war was not over.

Tehran Radio and IRNA quoted Khomeini as telling senior government officials: "We should not think the war is over. We should feel we are in war."

The 85-year-old Khomeini, who swept the Shah out of power in 1979, said the armed forces should be prepared because Iran's enemies were constantly scheming against Tehran.

Urging continued vigilance, Khomeini said:

"They might publicise in Iran that it's all over to make people lax. We should be alert and the war fronts should be full," the radio quoted him as saying.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

16:00 Koran
16:20 Programme review
16:25 Cartoons and children's programmes
17:35 Small wonder
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Message from Cairo
18:15 Local series
19:18 Local programme
19:35 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:40 Arabic series
21:35 Programme review
21:50 Local programme
22:30 Wrestling
23:10 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Wrestling (cont'd.)

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La France a la carte
18:20 News in French
19:05 Un DB de plus
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Olympic sports
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 News summary in Arabic
21:00 Panorama: selling the Nuclear Dream
21:30 Twilight Zone
22:00 News in English
22:20 Hoover vs. the Kennedys

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9540 KHz, SW Tel: 77111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:05 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show Cont'd.
09:05 30 Minute Theatre
10:00 Songs from Movies
10:30 News Summary
10:35 Readings
11:00 Pop Session
11:30 News Summary
12:00 News Bulletin
12:05 Readings
12:30 News Summary
13:00 Pop Session
13:05 News Bulletin
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 The Young Sound
14:35 Concert Hour
15:00 News in Summary
15:05 Instruments
15:30 Old Favourites
16:00 Jordan Weekly
16:30 Pop Session
17:30 News Summary
18:00 News Summary

18:05 Science Report
18:30 Music
19:00 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Cont'd.
21:35 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show Continued
22:37 News Headlines
23:07 Close Down

WORLDNET

(At the American Cultural Centre)

08:00 America Today
11:00 News
12:00 Hour USA
13:00 America Today
14:00 The Seldom Scene
14:30 American Business English
14:45 Science World
16:00 Washington Foreign Press Centre Briefing
16:00 WorldNet Dialogue: TV Satellite Technology
17:00 Worldbeat (English)
17:30 Growing a Business (English)

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Country Stories
07:45 Newsdesk 07:50 Financial News
08:00 World News 08:09 24 Hours
08:45 The World Today 09:00
09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Meridian 10:00 World
News 10:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News
Summary 10:30 Development '88 11:00
World News 11:09 Reflections 11:15
Classical Record Review 11:30 Brain
of Britain 1988 12:00 World News
12:09 British Press Review 12:15 The
World Today 12:30 Financial News
followed by Sports Roundup 12:45
Jazz Scene UK 13:00 News Summary
followed by Omnibus 13:30 Trivia Test
Match 14:00 World News 14:09 News
about Britain 14:15 Country Stories
14:30 Meridian 15:00 Radio Newsdesk
15:15 Time for Verse 15:25 The Farm-
ing World 15:45 Sports Roundup 16:00
World News 16:09 Twenty-Four
Hours: News Summary 16:30 Develop-
ment '88 17:00 Outlook, opening with
5-Minute News 17:45 Report on Religion
18:00 Radio Newsdesk 18:15
Three Wishes 18:30 Radio Active
19:00 World News 19:09 News about
Britain 19:15 Hitting the High Notes
19:45 The World Today 20:00 World
News 20:09 Commentary 20:15 Society
Today 20:30 News Ideas 20:40 Book
Choice 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00
Newsdesk 21:30 Multitrack 2 22:00

Outlook, opening with News Summary
22:30 Stock Market Report 22:45
Good Books 23:00 World News 23:09
Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
23:30 Churchill the Historian 24:00
News Summary followed by Network
UK 00:15 Hitting the High Notes 00:45
Recording of the Week 01:00 World
News 01:09 The World Today 01:25
Presentation Programme 01:30 Financial
News 01:45 Reflections 01:55
Sports Roundup 02:00 World News
02:09 Commentary 02:15 Write On!
02:30 Multitrack 2

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9965, 11740, 11925 and 15210 Hz

07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA
Morning 08:00 News 08:15 Newsline
08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10
Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00
News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 VOA
Morning 10:40 News 10:50 Newsline
11:00 News 11:10 Newsline 11:30
Focus 20:30 Special English News &
Features 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline
21:30 Magazine Show 22:00 News
22:15 Focus 22:30 Special English
News & Features 23:00 News 23:10
Newsline America 23:30 Music USA
Jazz 24:00 News & Editorial 00:15
Music USA Jazz 01:00 News 01:15
World Report

CULTURAL CENTRES & LIBRARIES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 644371
American Centre Library 641520
British Council 6361478
French Cultural Centre 637009
Goethe Institute 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre 634049
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777
Haya Arts Centre 661195
Husein Youth City 671810
Y.W.C.A. 641793
Y.W.M.A. 664251
American Municipal Library 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library 643555
Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation 672541
Amman Municipal Library 637111

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and Knowledge for all

ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes from 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mun-tazah, Jabal Lawleh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815361

SERVICE CLUBS

Prayer Times
04:43 Fajr
05:05 Sunrise
12:36 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr
19:07 Maghrib
20:29 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lawleh, Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Husein, Tel. 661757, Sunday English mass (summer time 6 p.m. - winter time 5 p.m.).
Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Lawleh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 625441.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 678906, chaplain's residence tel. 601359.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m., Rev. N. Saib, tel. 811295.
Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Interdenominational-ecumenical English Service: Saturday at 6:30 p.m. tel. 822605, Rev. Veli.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815817, 821264.

637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Husein, Tel. 661757, Sunday English mass (summer time 6 p.m. - winter time 5 p.m.).
Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Lawleh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 625441.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 678906, chaplain's residence tel. 601359.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m., Rev. N. Saib, tel. 811295.
Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Interdenominational-ecumenical English Service: Saturday at 6:30 p.m. tel. 822605, Rev. Veli.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815817, 821264.

18:10 Istanbul (RJ)
18:15 Paris (RJ)
18:20 Athens (RJ)
18:25 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:45 London, Geneva (RJ)
18:45 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
18:55 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:30 Belgrade (RJ)
19:30 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
02:18 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

08:10 Karachi (PK)
11:25 Kuwait (KU)
11:40 Damascus (AZ)
12:45 Bahrain (add.) (GF)
13:10 Sana, Jeddah (YV)
13:20 Cairo (MS)
13:20 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
13:45 Kuwait (KU)
14:00 Jeddah, Medina (SV)
19:10 Tunis (TU)
21:15 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
21:45 Muscat (add.) (GF)
22:25 Paris, Damascus (AF)
22:55 Tripoli, Damascus (PK)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:45 Agaba (RJ)
11:45 Belgrade (RJ)
12:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:10 Athens (RJ)
12:20 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)
12:45 Vienna, Chicago (RJ)
13:00 London (RJ)
14:30 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
20:15 Calcutta (RJ)
20:20 Riyadh (RJ)
20:30 Dhahran (RJ)
20:40 Kuwait (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:10 Cairo (RJ)
21:15 Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:50 Baghdad (RJ)
22:10 Damascus (RJ)
22:15 Bangkok (RJ)

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:45 Doha (RJ)
10:00 Agaba (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:40 Dhahran (RJ)
10:40 Kuwait (RJ)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:00 Bahrain (RJ)
17:30 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The weather will be relatively hot with north-westerly moderate winds. In Agaba, the winds will be northerly moderate and calm seas.

Amman Min./max. temp. 19 / 32
Agaba 28 / 37
Deserts 20 / 36
Jordan Valley 23 / 37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Agaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Agaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad I. Khalil 896394
Dr. Hisham Kana'na 790286
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayem 620115
Dr. Anwar Mousa Al Haj 771020
First pharmacy 661912
Fendous pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 626372
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649495
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

TAXIS:
Al Jofeh taxi 776061
Al Qasi (Abn Joudheh) taxi 743830
Wisam taxi 776273
Ra'ad taxi 898633
Rawda taxi 741572
Umaysa taxi 775780
Mubad taxi 893092

IRBID:
Dr. Attallah Naser (—)
Al Sharrif pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:
Dr. Youssef Abu Sa'ad 890000
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 198, 891228
Blood Bank 778302
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 639141
Public Security Directorate 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Room 661101
Jordan Television 773111



FAREWELL: Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbeh (left) Tuesday called on the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi to bid him farewell. Wahbeh has been transferred to another post following the termination of his tour of duty in Jordan (Petra photo)

Sierra Leone ministers leave after air talks

AMMAN (R) — Two members of the Sierra Leone cabinet left Jordan Tuesday after talks on air transport cooperation, a Royal Jordanian (RJ) airline official said.

The official, who declined to be identified, said transport and communications Minister Michael Abdulai and Justice Minister Abdulai Conteh had asked Royal Jordanian officials for advice on airline management.

He said the two ministers handed His Majesty King Hussein a

letter from Sierra Leone President Joseph Momoh stressing his country's desire to foster ties.

A political source said the two ministers also discussed settlement of a debt to Jordan's national airline over an aircraft leasing deal, put at between \$5 to \$7 million.

Under a 1983 management agreement, Royal Jordanian operated two flights a week between Sierra Leone, London and Paris. It ended the accord in 1987 because of foreign currency shortages in Sierra Leone.

Community college exam not cancelled

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Education will not cancel a comprehensive examination which it organises for community college students upon their completion of two-year or three-year training courses, the Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Tal announced here Tuesday.

Tal said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the examination, which allows successful students to get their diplomas, was initiated originally to control the educational process, improve the standard of community colleges and make an assessment of the students' learning during their courses.

Reports of the ministry's intention to cancel this examination are totally groundless, Tal said, denying earlier reports in the local press.

He said the ministry will continue to arrange this examination;

and has introduced new regulations and curricula for community colleges.

The Ministry of Higher Education announced the results of the community colleges' comprehensive examination for 1988 on Aug. 22, saying that 80.25 per cent of those who took the examinations passed.

Tal, who made the announcement at a press conference, said 16,560 students took the examination organised by the ministry last month, but only 13,289 passed.

The average number of successful students this year was higher than in previous years because of the higher averages required by community colleges for acceptance, and the nature of examinations, Tal said.

He said those who failed would have the chance to repeat the examination in the coming academic year.

Excavations unearth Ummayyad mosque at Khirbet Al Kursi

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Mohammad Hammouri, visited the Khirbet Al Kursi site on the premises of the Al Hussein Medical Centre on Tuesday, and toured the archaeological excavations currently being carried out by a team from the University of Jordan in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities.

The minister was told that the

digs have unearthed an ancient village dating back to the Ummayyad period, a Byzantine church, an olive press and warehouses for agricultural products.

Ministry of Culture officials said that an ancient mosque which was also found at the site contains decorative designs, and an agreement has been reached with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to carry out restoration work on the mosque in

cooperation with the University of Jordan and the Department of Antiquities.

The minister asked the Department of Antiquities to take appropriate measures to safeguard the archaeological site and to conduct restoration work wherever necessary.

The department director, Adnan Hadidi, accompanied the minister on his tour.

Queen opens Cooperatives Day

KARAK (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor opened an exhibition of agricultural products here Tuesday in observation of the "Cooperatives Day."

The three-day exhibition, which displays products from various cooperatives affiliated to the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO), aims to highlight the work and objectives of coop-

erative societies in contributing towards the country's agricultural development.

The Karak governor gave a speech outlining the importance of cooperatives and their service to the local community.

The JCO director and several local officials were present at the opening ceremony.

26 new schools open in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — The Department of Education in the Governorate of Zarqa has opened 26 new secondary, vocational and compulsory schools in the current year. Starting up costs were in the region of JD 6,700,000.

The director of education in the governorate stated that these schools have been equipped with the necessary facilities and materials, and that most of them had already received their pupils for the present academic year.

Zarqa implements JD 56m of 5-year development plan

ZARQA (Petra) — In the first half of the 1986-1990 five-year plan, the Zarqa governorate spent JD 55.891 million on different aspects of the plan, Zarqa Governor Eid Qataneh announced Tuesday.

He said funds were spent on industrial projects and the development of the agricultural sec-

tor, including crop production, the construction of roads, social services, housing, water and education.

Of these projects, Qataneh said JD 1.7 million has been spent on the construction of a nursing and midwifery college at Yajouz, and JD 20 million has been spent on social services.

Thirteen schools have been set up within the governorate of Zarqa at a cost of JD 5.266 million, Qataneh added.

He said JD 2.352 million were spent on projects for the development of agricultural land, including land within the Zarqa River basin.

British Council marks 40th anniversary

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In 1948, Great Britain established a channel of cultural cooperation with Jordan that in the past 40 years has increased its role by involving itself in all educational and social levels of life in the Kingdom.

The British Council, established exactly 40 years ago, has grown and developed over the years "side by side with internal development of the country," according to David Latta, head of the British Council in Amman.

In a press conference held at the council headquarters Tuesday, Latta told reporters that the anniversary "is not so much for celebrations," but that it was time to "assess the work of the council, its employees and the people associated with it."

"It is also a time to note

changes in the Kingdom during the time we were here," Latta pointed out that "Amman is a much better place now than it was in the 50's and 60's."

This fortieth anniversary, Latta said, "is a time when we pledge that we will be here in the future."

Latta assessed the activities of the council and the contributions it has made in the past four decades to the people of Jordan and the Jordanian educational institutions.

"One feature of our cooperation projects is the one we have with ministries of education and higher education," Latta said. The British Council undertook the implementation of an agreement between Jordan and Britain to introduce computers to 200 secondary schools in the Kingdom.

This project was adopted by the council last year, replacing

the British Embassy in Amman and the Overseas Development Agency which were originally assigned to the project.

The agreement between the two countries also calls for providing the Ministry of Education with technological equipment, developing the computer departments in the government schools and training ministry teachers, in Britain, at the rate of 25 teachers a year for three years.

"This is the first year we send 100 students to study in Britain, mainly in post graduate and technical majors," Latta said. He said that "our secret ambition is double the numbers of students we send out to Britain."

Facilities available at the council include a library, established in 1948, which caters to the needs of 1,300 readers, and 800 Jordanian students studying English language at the council.



Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh (in dark suit left) Tuesday sees off Jordan's 3rd relief mission leaving for the Sudan from Marka airport (Petra photo)

3rd relief mission leaves for Sudan

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan Tuesday sent its third relief mission to Sudan in less than two weeks in a bid to alleviate the sufferings of the people displaced in the flood-ravaged Arab country.

1.5 million people. Khasawneh expressed the hope that Sudan will be able to overcome the disaster and that Arab countries will extend emergency aid to their Sudanese brothers.

Sudan's Ambassador to Jordan Mahjoub Radwan, who saw off the mission at the airport, said that his countrymen were going through very difficult conditions in the wake of the floods, which caused extensive damage to property and crops. The country, he added, now lies victim to swarms of locusts which have invaded vast areas of Sudan.

On Sunday, Jordan had dispatched its second relief mission to Sudan comprising 13 doctors, technicians, a number of specialists and civil defence men. Also included in the shipment were medical equipment, water purification materials and other relief supplies.

The third mission is taking with it equipment needed to finalise expansion work on Al Kass hospital in western Sudan to enable it to carry out its humanitarian mission.

In addition to the medical staff, the mission includes a team representing the Jordanian media.

These journalists plan to cover the situation in Sudan comprehensively in the wake of the floods that have displaced nearly

countries in both the eastern and western blocs.

The linking of national grids in Jordan and Egypt constitutes the first stage of a programme which entails linking the grids of the two countries with those of Saudi Arabia and Syria on the one hand, and Turkey on the other, the Egyptian minister said. The Arab and Turkish governments will discuss this subject in detail at a meeting to be held in Ankara next month.

In the second stage of the programme, the Gulf states and Iraq will be linked with Turkey, while the third stage entails cooperation in power-related fields between the Arab World and Western Europe.

Later, Prime Minister Atef Sidqi received the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources in his office, and reviewed with him cooperation between Jordan and Egypt in energy-related fields.

Khatib briefed the prime minister on the outcome of his talks with Egyptian ministers and officials over the linking of the national grids.

After the meeting, Khatib, accompanied by Abaza, visited the Egyptian Electricity Authority and heard a briefing on its responsibilities and programmes.

The two sides also discussed the implementation of a scientific protocol signed last January which paves the way for joint cooperation in scientific domains. Abaza said after the talks that in the next ten years the national grids of all Arab countries will be linked in one pan-Arab network which would in turn be linked to the European network including

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt Tuesday opened talks here on bilateral cooperation in electricity and other forms of energy, and in particular measures to be taken for linking their national grids in the coming two years.

The delegations are led on the Jordanian side by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib, and on the Egyptian side by Minister of Electricity and Energy Maher Abaza. The two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation in the production and distribution of electric power and continued discussion of plans for linking the two countries' national grids and launching projects to obtain new forms of energy and renewable energy.

Khatib in his talks with the Ministry of Petroleum here on Monday agreed on an exchange of expertise between Jordan and Egypt in the field of oil exploration. The Egyptian side has agreed, he said, to provide Jordanian technicians with field training at Egyptian oil installations, and to join Egyptian specialists in the process of prospecting for minerals. Egypt has also agreed to supply Jordan with a copy of its agreements with oil companies, which would benefit Jordan in future contracts with companies prospecting for oil in the Kingdom.

On Monday Khatib discussed with the Egyptian Minister of State for Scientific Research means of bolstering bilateral cooperation in renewable energy and the employment of non-traditional building materials in housing projects.

The two sides also discussed the implementation of a scientific protocol signed last January which paves the way for joint cooperation in scientific domains. Abaza said after the talks that in the next ten years the national grids of all Arab countries will be linked in one pan-Arab network which would in turn be linked to the European network including

that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that current inter-Palestinian debate revolved "around the confines of the intended political programme and whether it will be declared by the PLO as such or accompany the declaration of a state or the setting up of a government."

Khalaf told the Mideast Mirror that "there are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Khalaf repeated that the PNC meeting would be postponed until after September as consultations among Palestinian leaders and others continue.

Khalaf said the postponement would not be extended until after the Israeli elections in November.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جوردين تايمز: صحيفة عربية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Editorial Director:

RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6.

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Soviet initiative

MOST parties in the area should welcome the news that the Soviet Union may soon launch a dynamic initiative aiming for a negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Several key elements of such a move have started falling into place, including: an improvement in Israeli-Soviet contacts, the expectation that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is on the verge of a major new policy announcement emphasising Palestinian willingness to coexist in peace in an independent Palestinian state next to an Israeli state, the emergence of important voices within Israel which speak about Israeli-PLO negotiations in the wake of a Labour Party victory in the parliamentary elections, and the end of American-dominated peace-making.

The Soviet Union is in the midst of a major political transition, whose full implications and ramifications remain to be seen. One obvious result of the Gorbachev era, however, is already visible in the willingness of the two superpowers and their allies/clients in the Third World to resolve regional conflicts in a more just and realistic manner, as we have started to witness in Afghanistan, Namibia, Cyprus, Cambodia, the Gulf war and other spots where superpower influence varies in nature and degree. A greater Soviet role in Arab-Israeli peace-making is not only useful — it is imperative. It will rid us of the nonsensical idea that the United States is the only possible mediator in town, and it will provide the geo-political balance that is vital for meaningful talks and, subsequently, for effective security guarantees delivered through and assured by the Security Council, or some other United Nations or multilateral arrangement. As the Soviets are likely to focus on the concept of equal national rights for both Palestinians and Israelis, and guarantees for all other concerned parties in the region, we suspect their approach will be well received in the area, and will help redress the balance which has been distorted for so long by American inequity, bias and insensitivity.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS



Rabah — Al Ra'i

Al Ra'i: Brotherly talks

KING Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia and his talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz came in the wake of a ceasefire in the Gulf conflict which Jordan and Saudi Arabia have worked very hard to end. There is no doubt that the Gulf situation was the focus of the talks in Jeddah since both leaders believe in continued consultations over urgent issues and questions of concern to the whole Arab Nation. Jordan and Saudi Arabia have been staunch supporters for Iraq and have both extended support to the Iraqi people to enable them to fend off the Iranian danger. The King's visit to the Saudi monarch was for consultation and coordination in the preparation for the coming stage; the talks also dealt with matters pertaining to the future of the Gulf region and means of ensuring its security. Another question of common Arab interest is Jordan's recent decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. This too was no doubt on the agenda of the two Arab leaders who are both concerned over the future of the Palestinians and regard this decision as a step towards bolstering the PLO stand and enabling the Palestinian people maintain their struggle against occupation. In addition, both leaders must have discussed further steps towards strengthening bilateral ties in a manner that would ensure for their countries a leading role in safeguarding pan-Arab interests.

Al Dustour: Iran's manoeuvring

THE ongoing negotiations in Geneva for settling the Iran-Iraq conflict are being exploited by Iran through diplomatic manoeuvres to achieve the evil objectives of the Tehran regime. Such attitude proves beyond doubt that the Iraqis are now involved in a long and difficult battle for peace, no less dangerous than that which had raged for the past eight years along the common border. It has become clear that the Iranian delegation is intent on exercising blackmail methods and delaying the arrival at a peaceful and just settlement. The Iraqi side which presented no preconditions, seeks an honourable peace; and in this endeavour it requires support and backing from all Arab and peace-loving nations. For its part, Jordan has supported Iraq all along calls on the Arab states not to spare any effort in helping Iraq in Geneva talks which is regarded as an extension to the war arena along the Iraqi-Iranian border. Arab backing to Iraq's diplomatic efforts is a must, since Iraq has offered sacrifices and the blood of its citizens in defence of the Arab Nation. But we have no doubt that the Iraqis who were able to liberate their occupied territories can and will foil the Iranian manoeuvres. Iraq's right in the Shatt Al Arab waterway is a sacred one and should be supported by the world community and the Arab Nation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Removing all obstacles

IN an interview with Al Watan newspaper of Kuwait, Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani reaffirmed the objectives of the Jordanian decision to sever legal ties with the West Bank. He said that the decision was taken in response to the wishes of the PLO and the other Arab countries and in a drive to enable the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people carry on the efforts towards regaining the usurped lands and rights in Palestine. Of course the minister said Jordan will maintain its strong backing for the PLO and the Palestinian people in this respect, and will do all it can to achieve the aspired goals. The decision was intended to help project the Palestinian identity and to prove that Jordan is not seeking to compete with the PLO in representing the Palestinians.

Palestinians are continuing in the struggle for an independent state

50 years later: still fighting for self-determination

The following is the second of four articles in which analysts and historians discuss with Jordan Times Staff Reporter Najwa Najjar parallels and differences between the 1936 Palestinian revolt and the 1988 uprising.

AMMAN — On Aug. 30, 1936 the Arah Higher Committee decided to continue the general strike, and accepted mediation by Arah heads of state.

The British authorities suggested sending an 11-member committee headed by Lord Peel to come to Palestine "to study the situation" and "to give a just solution" if the Palestinians ended the revolt. At the same time the British were intensifying their military operations against the revolt with new reinforcements arriving from abroad.

At first the Arah Higher Committee boycotted the Peel Commission, mainly because Britain had just issued new Jewish immigration quota. Most Arab states attending the Arah national congress conference in Bludan, Syria rejected the commission as well.

Only the intervention of some Arah leaders convinced the Palestinians to end the general strike on Oct. 11, 1936. According to one analyst the Palestinians abided by the Arah leaders' call because they were more "Arah" than "Palestinian."

Bahjat Abu Gharbieh, a participant in the 1936 revolt and ex-member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) executive committee disagreed.

"The main weakness of the leadership was its inability to fully oppose the British and to enter a full fledged war against them," said Abu Gharbieh, who is now in Palestine.

He explained that the "nature" of the Palestinian leadership did not allow for this because their interests were linked with the British. "Many worked for the British. The British saw that the Palestinians would not pressure them. This made the British 'hold tight' to their stand," Abu Gharbieh said.

"However, this was the kind of leadership available at that time, since there were no unions," He added that this leadership however, was able to rally the people around it.

The revolt entered into a short lull between November 1936 and January 1937, when the Peel Commission was touring Pales-

tine. However, Palestinians were outraged by the recommendations of the Peel Commission, and violence exploded at unprecedented levels in July 1937 and lasted until the fall of 1938.

On July 7, 1937 the Peel Commission's report recommended the partition of Palestine into a Jewish state, and Arab state with some territorial links with Transjordan and British mandatory enclaves. It also recommended the forcible transfer, if necessary, of Palestinian population out of the projected Jewish state.

Of all commissions' reports, that of Peel's is considered to have been most favourable to Zionists. Jews would have received not only 33 per cent of the total area of the country but the best of its lands. At a time when Jewish ownership did not exceed 5.6 per cent of Palestine, the lands of Safad in the Galilee, the Acre district and the coastal plain, from the Lebanese border of Jaffa, would have been handed over to them. The proposed Jewish state would have almost as many Arabs as Jews, not counting the bedouins.

Two weeks later the Arah Higher Committee dismissed the partition proposal and demanded an independent unitary Palestinian state "with protection of all legitimate Jewish and other minority rights and the safeguarding of reasonable British interests." Palestinians feared that their land within the Jewish state would be confiscated and that they would be forcibly transferred. Palestinians also opposed the incorporation of the proposed Palestinian state into Transjordan.

"Many blame us for not agreeing to the partition plan at that time," said secretary of the Nablus national committee at the time, Akram Zu'eter. "What they cannot see is that all of Palestine was our land. How could we have accepted part of it at that time?" asked Zu'eter, who presently heads the Amman-based Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs affiliated to what used to be the Ministry of Occupied Territories.

All the participants inter-

viewed stressed that partition in 1936 was unacceptable since Palestinians were the majority on the land and they considered the whole country their own. Some pointed out that their own villages would have been part of the Jewish state.

In September 1937, the Arab national congress met again in Bludan and 450 delegates from Arab countries denounced the partition proposal, and demanded the termination of the British mandate, the cessation of Zionist immigration into Palestine and the prohibition of transfer of Arab lands to Zionist ownership.

The Peel plan is seen by some

Palestinian leaders were arrested.

At the height of the revolt the combined forces of the British police and army, and the Zionist terrorist groups amounted to 100,000. The British cooperated with the Jewish Agency's secret army and with the Haganah to organise, train and arm two special forces: The special night squads and the Jewish settlement police. They numbered 14,000 by 1939. It was with the growth of this strength from 1937 until 1938 that new tactics of throwing grenades and planting time bombs in the crowded market places were introduced.

The British were equipped with

In 1938 nearly 1,700 Arabs were killed, 486 civilians and 1,138 fighters.

The rebellion was sustained unabated during 1938, but "the expulsion of the Arab leaders left the Palestinians without the political leadership they needed," said one historian. Although the Arah Higher Committee continued its activities from Lebanon where Haj Amin took refuge. It could not however, exercise control over military groups that were constituted into regional groups in Palestine.

Several areas of Palestine including Jerusalem fell under Palestinian control. Arah countries voiced their support and Palestinian demands were again endorsed in October 1938 by the Arah parliamentarians' congress and the Arab women's congress, both held in Cairo.

In the same year, public services in Bethlehem, Nablus and Ramallah were brought to a halt and the British and the Zionists built a wall on the Syrian border to curtail infiltration of Arah fighters.

On April 27, of the same year a technical commission of inquiry, under chairmanship of Sir John Woodhead, arrived in Palestine to study the feasibility of partition as recommended by the Peel Commission. It remained in the country until Aug. 3, and by Nov. 9, 1938 the Woodhead Commission published a report stating the impracticality of the Peel Commission's partition proposal.

The Woodhead Commission succeeded in reducing the momentum of the rebellion because it concluded that the partition of Palestine would be "problematic."

However, the British planned an all-out offensive to crush the rebellion. They brought in massive reinforcements and transferred the administration of the country to military commanders.

The ensuing engagements were the most severe so far. Fifty-five Palestinians were executed by hanging, at least 1,200 Palestinians were killed in action by the British, more than twice as many Palestinians were detained as in 1938 and five times as many rifles were seized from Palestinians in a drive to achieve their total surrender.

When the Woodhead report was published, The British government convened a joint conference in London on Feb. 7, 1939

for Jews, Arabs and British to express their opinions. The conference closed on Mar. 27 after both Jews and Arabs refused to meet directly.

Britain, faced with the increasing possibility of a second European war, decided to issue a prewar policy statement that it hoped would secure order among Palestinians and other Arabs.

In May 1939 the colonial secretary of state, Malcolm MacDonald issued a white paper. According to the 1939 white paper, Britain would give conditional independence for a unitary Palestinian state after an interval of ten years, would admit 15,000 Jewish immigrants annually into Palestine for five years, and would protect Palestinian land rights against Zionist acquisition.

The white paper repeated that "it was not part of the (British) government policy that Palestine should become a Jewish state, regarding it as contrary to their obligations to the Arabs under mandate."

Many Palestinians could not accept the white paper because of the ambiguity of the phrase "Arah acquiescence" in relation to continuing future Jewish immigration and the conditional nature of the promised independent unitary state.

However, the participants of the 1936 revolt considered the 1939 white paper a "victory." They agreed that Palestinians were aware that battling and overpowering the British single-handedly was "beyond their capabilities."

"We succeeded in fulfilling two of our demands: Limiting Jewish immigration and outlawing the transfer of Arab lands to the Jews," said Zu'eter. Even though the third demand for an independent Palestinian state was mentioned, it was never fulfilled. Six years later the state of Israel was created.

"During the four years 8,000 Palestinians were killed," said Abu Gharbieh, adding that Palestinians were willing to sacrifice their lives. "We had fought the Turks for our independence, now we were revolting against the British occupation," he continued.

Today the Palestinian people are still fighting for self-determination and an independent Palestinian state. To date, 260 Palestinians have died resisting the Israeli occupation since the uprising started in December, 1987.

IRA rides high but British government vows to hit back

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Two sights in central Belfast are reminders of how quickly the balance can shift in the treacherous ebb and flow of the Northern Ireland conflict.

A wreath by the Queen Elizabeth bridge commemorates Lt. Alan Shields, a naval recruiting officer who was blown up by a bomb while driving into Belfast Monday, the 26th British military man to die in an Irish Republican Army attack this year.

Beyond the bridge, workers clear the wreckage left by an IRA car bomb that exploded in the commercial heart of Belfast Tuesday.

The army deaths are a sharp increase from 1987, when the IRA managed to kill only three soldiers. The bombing is a sobering reminder to Belfast not to take for granted the peace and prosperity that has blossomed in its business and entertainment centre over six relatively bomb-free years.

IRA attacks usually come in short, bloody bursts, and no one knows how long this one will last.

But it represents at least a temporary surge in activity by the IRA in its campaign to rid Northern Ireland of British rule and unite the province with the Irish Republic.

Ever since November, when a bomb massacred 12 Protestant civilians at a war memorial ceremony in Enniskillen, the IRA had made a series of blunders. The mistakes left a trail of 18 innocent dead, Protestants as well as the blue-collar Roman Catholics whose interests the IRA claims to represent.

Things got bad

Thus the shift to attacks on soldiers, with little risk to civilians, is a morale booster for IRA supporters, who were feeling increasingly embarrassed at seeing the IRA repeatedly having to excuse its mistakes.

Things got so bad that Gerry Adams, president of the outlawed IRA's legal political wing, Sinn Fein, had to warn the IRA publicly to "get its house in order."

The attacks on the army have taken place in mainland Britain and continental Europe, but the deadliest have been in Northern Ireland, where six off-duty soldiers were blown up in their van

in June, and eight died in a bus bombed last Saturday.

The IRA's bolstered spirits were reflected in its boast that it smuggled Tuesday's bomb in central Belfast through a massive security net, and that in future, a sophisticated system of non-detonable explosives would be used to set off more bombs, combined with remote-control smoke grenades to warn off bystanders.

"The IRA are on a 'high' at the moment, flush with weapons and explosives, but it cannot be sustained, because against a resolute government there is no way they can convert their violence into the political concessions they demand," commented the Belfast Telegraph, Northern Ireland's most influential newspaper.

The government, responding to anguished Protestant appeals for tougher anti-IRA measures, says it has taken decisions which it says are being kept secret but will "soon become apparent."

Newspapers speculate that these include sending in more troops, extending legal powers to hold suspects, and tightening cooperation with the Irish police to close the IRA's refugee south of the border.

Stalemate?

But as the Telegraph itself noted, most of the ideas have already been tried, "and for every argument in favour of radical change, there is another to say that it might make things worse."

Some analysts imagine the fighting reaching a stalemate in which the British agree to talk about troop withdrawal, the IRA accepts a truce, and all parties acknowledge the futility of violence and sit down for peace talks.

But Paul Arthur, a political scientist at the University of Ulster, believes Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is too deeply committed to fighting terrorism to agree to anything that smacks of a deal with the IRA.

Arthur believes the only way the IRA will be defeated is if enough Catholics are revolted by the bloodshed to expunge the gunmen from their midst.

That's why killing soldiers makes the most sense for the IRA.

Civilian deaths only provoke revulsion, while killing local policemen and militiamen gets marginal publicity in Britain, compared with the death of a

soldier who has been sent in from Britain.

The struggle at present is shaped mainly by propaganda needs.

The IRA aims to turn the

British public off Northern Ireland and into a mood to bring the boys back home.

"The British people need to ask if there is not another way," says Sinn Fein's Adams. "They

should actively press for their government to withdraw."

The British government counters with the charge that the weapons and explosives fueling the summer blitz have come from

Libya.

These supplies, says Tom King, the government's Northern Ireland secretary, "may have given some people the idea that somehow violence can actually win."

Gulf experience has not changed U.S. strategy

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The U.S. navy has learned a few war-fighting lessons from its Gulf escort experience but none likely to change its global strategy, according to both Pentagon and private defence analysts.

With Iran and Iraq seeking to end their eight-year old war and the United States preparing to reduce its 29-ship Gulf force, experts say the navy is trying to shore up weak points uncovered in such traumas as the 1987 sinking of the frigate Stark and the shooting down of an Iranian passenger jet last month.

Shipboard changes under way include better fire prevention gear and damage-control training as a result of the Iraqi aircraft missile attack that killed 37 U.S. sailors aboard the Stark in May 1987.

Misidentification of an Iranian Airbus led the U.S. cruiser Vincennes to shoot the civilian plane down in the heat of a surface

battle in July, killing all 290 people aboard.

Apart from a few such touches on the Rudder, however, the navy appears unlikely to shake up fleet operations much as a result of its experience escorting reflagged Kuwaiti tankers past the hit-and-run dangers of the Gulf. Even less is it likely to veer from America's two-ocean superpower strategy.

Crew misinformed

"I'm not on the inside, but you can bet the navy's strategy of engaging the Soviets in deep water and keeping ocean lanes open to Europe will continue to dictate design and strategy," said former Defence Secretary Harold Brown.

"I don't say it's wrong," Brown told Reuters. "But the question here is whether they learned that you can't use all ships in all situations."

Tom Longstreth, a defence analyst with the private federa-

tion of American scientists, agreed.

"I'm not going to argue in hindsight with building up the fleet to protect (Kuwaiti) tankers," Longstreth said.

"It's just too bad that in the military, like any other huge bureaucracy, it often takes tragedy or scandal like the airliner incident to make it move."

Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci told Reuters two weeks ago that the radar aboard the Vincennes worked well on July 3, the day of the tragedy, but that the crew mistakenly informed Captain Will Rogers that the Iranian Airbus was descending in a threatening manner when it was really gaining altitude.

As a result, the navy will draw up "emotional profiles" of certain jobs and improve training for high-stress situations.

Two weeks after the airliner incident, the Pentagon also urged Congress to restore \$9.2 million to the defence budget for a better "Identification, Friend or Foe" (IFF) radar as part of the

high-tech aegis anti-aircraft system on the ship.

Retired Navy Admiral Gene Ia Rocque, a sharp critic of the major U.S. naval presence in the Gulf, said the navy had probably learned some useful information about escorting tankers and clearing mines from the waterway. "But we had better not be giving ourselves a slap on the back for ending the war," La Rocque said.

Longstreth said the presence of U.S. and other protective Western warships in the Gulf was a factor, but that Iran's ragged economy and Iraq's use of chemical weapons were major reasons for Tehran's agreement to a ceasefire.

With Iran and Iraq no longer shooting at merchant vessels, Washington could start reducing its Gulf-area fleet soon.

Pentagon spokesman Dan Howard refused to speculate on this, but other defence officials told Reuters a few ships might be recalled without replacement as early as September.

Many attractions lure tourists to Gulf

By Mark Fisher
Reuters

DUBAI — For years when the sound of a frigate's guns boomed across Dubai one night, residents scarcely blinked.

They knew the Gulf shipping war raging off the coast posed no threat to them.

But until this month Dubai's proximity to the Gulf war was enough to discourage many foreign tourists from sampling its appealing mix of sandy beaches, old Arabian desert forts, camel races and lively souks.

With a ceasefire between Iraq and Iran silencing the guns of war, Dubai is now looking to an invasion of tourists.

"We feel the Aug. 20 ceasefire will give tourism a boost," said tour operator Salam Abdul Aziz.

Despite the conflict, holiday companies said about 10,000 European package tourists ventured to Dubai last winter, nearly three times as many as in 1986. "A lot of Germans, Swiss and Austrians come here... many tourists are businessmen or professionals," said tour operator Paul Claburn.

"It's not your average package destination. There are many old Arabian cultural sites to see."

In one of the city's smart hotels, a Briton on leave from a job in Saudi Arabia listed other attractions.

"You can drink (alcohol) and

there are women," he said. "Both are quite a find in this part of the world."

The only legacies of the shipping war are a few battered wrecks on the Gulf seabed, such as the Panamanian freighter Mare which sank 15 miles off Dubai in February.

The vessel, one of scores set on fire by Iranian gunboats, has become just another tourist attraction with frequent visits by fishermen and scuba divers.

Adventurous tourists can sail near Iran's billy Abu Musa island, a major gunboat base 30 miles off Dubai.

An Iranian frigate attacked the supertanker Haven near Abu Musa in March, forcing the

232,000-tonne Cypriot vessel to run aground in flames on the United Arab Emirates (UAE) coast.

In the UAE's interior, shifting yellow sand dunes give a true flavour of the Arabian desert.

Dirty tracks twist endlessly through the craggy Hajar mountains rising to 2,500 metres. Safaris have become popular in this sparsely-populated region, inhabited for thousands of years by nomadic bedu and traders in contact with the civilisations of Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley.

Winter is the favourite time for desert trips, as summer temperatures soar above 45 degrees centigrade.

مكة المكرمة

American activists shocked by conditions in W. Bank and Gaza

WASHINGTON (R) — After returning from a two-week stay in the Israeli-occupied territories, a group of 12 private U.S. citizens Monday called conditions in Palestinian refugee camps "shocking" and "nightmarish."

The group, mostly peace activists and human rights advocates, spent about two weeks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to observe first-hand the nine-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

The group's trip was organized by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, but none of the participants, who each paid about \$900, is a member of the committee.

"If there is a pattern to all the human rights violations against these people, it is one of attempting to so intimidate the Palestinians that they will leave their homes and become one more refugee group in the world," the Americans said in a statement.

They said the violence, regularly shown on American television and reported in newspapers earlier this year, before the Israeli government banned the media from many areas, still dominates everyday life in the occupied territories.

"I witnessed a teargas canister being shot into a shuttered two-room house leaving the family of six who lives there with respiratory problems and the two and a half-month old baby unconscious and sluggish since," said Scott Shaeffer-Duffy, a Catholic relief worker from Massachusetts.

"The conditions in the refugees' camps are nightmarish," said another participant, Norman Finkelstein, a political science professor from Brooklyn college in New York. "It was absolutely shocking."

During their stay in the occupied territories, several of the American activists described the Israeli army as "animals."



Palestinians at a desert prison camp in the Naqib desert

Israeli jails 'Nazi-like concentration camps'

By Karin Laub
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — A 16-year-old Palestinian held at a desert prison camp said Monday he was forced to strip naked, cover himself with paint and stand in the sun for several hours before troops clubbed him to remove the dried paint flakes.

Walid Sayfi of Jerusalem, who said the punishment was imposed because he started at a soldier, was one of three former prisoners who claimed at a news conference that inmates were regularly beaten and humiliated at the Ketziot prison camp in the Naqib desert.

The news conference was called by the Israeli League for Civil and Human Rights. Its chairman, Israel Shahak, is a survivor of a Nazi camp said some practices at Ketziot, also called Ansar 3, were comparable to those used by the Nazis.

"Some of the ordinary things done in Bergen Belsen were exactly what was done in Ansar 3," said Shahak, a chemistry professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. "Ansar 3 and others should be called Nazi-like concentration camps."

Monday's news conference coincided with an Israeli parliament debate on Ketziot, where about 2,500 Palestinians are being held, most of them for up to six months without being charged with specific crimes or put on trial.

The often stormy debate was sparked by a Communist Party motion to appoint an independent commission of inquiry into the deaths of two detainees during a Ketziot revolt earlier this month.

Parliament rejected the motion to establish the commission. Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, responding to charges about inhumane conditions at Ketziot, told parliament: "The conditions at Ketziot are not comfortable, as at any prison."

He also said the detention camps were designed as a deterrent. He said that as long as the uprising continued, "these prisons will be maintained as a way to show the residents of the (occupied) territories that they will not achieve anything through violence."

Thousands of Palestinians have been detained since the Dec. 8 start of the uprising, and about 5,000 are currently in prison,

according to army figures. The three former Ketziot detainees said they were housed in open-sided tents. They complained of lack of water, insufficient food and long exposure to the hot desert sun.

Sayfi, who was released from Ketziot July 6 after three months, said that after staring at a soldier, he was ordered to what prisoners called the "paint room."

"I was forced to strip, paint myself and then stand in the sun," said Sayfi, speaking through a translator. "After the paint dried, the soldiers beat me so the flakes would fall off. Some parts of the skin also came off."

Another detainee, Khaled Yousef Musa, 28, a farm worker from Jericho, said he was taken to another punishment cell. Soldiers tied his hands and feet, and then connected them with a tight rope so he was forced to stand bent over backwards in what prisoners called "the hana-na position."

Mohammad Jaher, 37, a teacher from the West Bank village of Biddu, described abuse at the Dahariya detention camp where he was held in late March before being transferred to Ketziot.

Morocco, Polisario accept U.N. plan for W. Sahara

GENEVA (Agencies) — Morocco and Polisario front guerrillas have accepted a United Nations plan to end 12 years of fighting over the Western Sahara, U.N. spokesman Francois Giuliani said Tuesday.

The U.N. plan calls for a ceasefire to be followed by a referendum offering the people of the territory a choice between independence and integration with Morocco.

Giuliani told reporters Morocco and the Algerian-backed Polisario movement had accepted proposals put forward by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Aug. 11.

Giuliani was speaking shortly after Perez de Cuellar met separately with Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali and Bechir Mustapha, a member of the Polisario's executive committee in charge of external relations.

The United Nations spokes-

man said implementation of the plan could start before the end of the year.

Perez de Cuellar's plan is believed to have detailed proposals for a ceasefire and a referendum monitored by the United Nations that would lead to independence or affiliation with another nation, most probably Morocco.

Details of the U.N. chief's proposal have not been disclosed, but the world body is considering plans that would send about 2,000 peacekeeping troops to the arid, sparsely populated territory to monitor the ceasefire.

Perez de Cuellar met separately Saturday in Geneva, where he is mediating the peace talks between Iran and Iraq, with Moroc-

can and Polisario representatives to answer their questions about his peace proposal.

After meeting Perez de Cuellar Tuesday, Mustapha said the Polisario still wanted a large number of the Moroccan troops stationed in the Western Sahara to be removed before the planned referendum.

He said another difficulty would be the presence of a Moroccan civilian administration in the territory while the referendum was held.

Morocco, which annexed the territory when Spain withdrew from the colony in 1975, has about 150,000 troops there.

Filali told reporters after his own meeting with Perez de Cuellar that Morocco's military presence was not an issue, since it was confined to a series of six defensive walls which Morocco had built to prevent Polisario infiltrations.

Mustapha said the Polisario had accepted the way that the question of independence or integration into Morocco would be put to voters in the referendum.

Filali said Morocco ruled out direct talks with the Saharan Arab democratic republic, the political entity which Polisario supporters proclaimed in the Western Sahara in 1976 and which is recognised by 70 countries.

A Polisario representative said Saturday that direct negotiations were the only path to peace.

Giuliani said Perez de Cuellar would meet members of the U.N. Security Council immediately upon his return to New York to work on military aspects of the peace plan.

He declined to give details, but U.N. analysts in Geneva said he probably meant the creation of a peace-keeping force after a ceasefire is declared. Giuliani said Perez de Cuellar would appoint a special representative for the Western Sahara.

"The secretary-general hopes implementation of the plan can begin before the end of the year," Giuliani said.

King Hassan of Morocco sent 350,000 unarmed Moroccan troops to the Western Sahara to lay claim to the territory after Spain agreed to cede control to Morocco and Mauritania.

UNRWA gets \$1.3 million

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two special contributions for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) emergency programmes in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, amounting to \$1.3 million, were announced in Vienna Monday.

For the Lebanon emergency, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is providing \$800,000. The money will be used to clear rubble from Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh camps in Beirut so that UNRWA can begin to help Palestine refugee residents of the two camps to repair their homes.

Qatar is providing \$500,000 for food, medical and welfare aid to Palestine refugees living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is in addition to Qatar's earlier contribution of \$2 million for food commodities and medical care in the occupied territories.

Israel says Soviets to launch peace initiative

TEL AVIV (R) — The Soviet Union has told Israel it plans to launch a new initiative for Middle East peace in the coming weeks, a senior Israeli official said Tuesday.

Nimrod Novik, an advisor to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, told Israel Radio he learned of Moscow's intentions at a weekend meeting in Paris with Gennady Terassov, deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department.

"...He told me enthusiastically and without prompting that the USSR intends to conduct, not in the coming months but in the coming weeks, a very, very determined political initiative in our region," Novik said.

Centuries-old dispute rears its head at Iran-Iraq talks

By Alex Efty
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The issue of sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab waterway which has bedeviled relations between the two sides for centuries, threatens to torpedo the Iran-Iraq peace talks here before they have barely begun.

The question has been a source of friction dating back to the days of the Persian and Ottoman empires.

Previous agreements have been torn up frequently, to be replaced by new ones favouring the side that found itself predominant at the time.

A Western diplomat involved in trying to settle the question in 1914 called it even then "a phenomenon of procrastination unparalleled in the chronicles of Oriental diplomacy."

The issue was one of the causes of the eight-year-old Iran-Iraq war which left more than 1.5 million dead and wounded.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein tore up the latest treaty, the Algiers agreement of 1975, during a televised speech five days after the Iran-Iraq war started September 1980 after weeks of border clashes.

The agreement between Hussein, who was then foreign minister, and the late Shah of Iran, laid down the border between the two states down the middle of the 200-kilometre waterway, instead of its eastern, Iranian bank, according to an earlier agreement reached in 1969.

This ensured freedom of navigation for both sides, though this is more vital to Iraq which has no other outlet to the sea. Iraq considered the 1975 treaty a humiliation it was forced to accept in return for an agreement

by the Shah to cutoff military support for Iraq's rebellious Kurdish minority which had gained control of its northern mountain homeland at the time.

The foreign ministers of the two countries, Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran and Tareq Aziz of Iraq, have been in Geneva since Thursday to consolidate a ceasefire and to hammer out a peace treaty with the help of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Already the Shatt Al Arab question is overshadowing all other issues, threatening to lead to a deadlock.

Aziz told a news conference Thursday his said has not raised the issue of sovereignty during the talks. All it is demanding, he added, is that Iran should agree to the clearing of the waterway immediately, to allow his country to benefit from using its only outlet to the sea with the minimum of delay.

He said this would provide an "equitable balance," to the free navigation enjoyed by Iranian vessels in the Gulf following the ending of Iraqi attacks with the full implementation of the U.N.-sponsored ceasefire agreement Aug. 20.

Velayati and other Iranian leaders contended however that progress at the talks was being blocked by Iraq, which had raised the "extraneous issue" of sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab at Geneva.

In fact, Iraq's deputy foreign minister, Saadoun Hamadi, said in a statement issued in Baghdad and distributed in Geneva, Wednesday that "any attempt to minimise the full sovereignty of Iraq on this vital issue would be faced by the categorical rejection from our side."

In what sounded like an ultimatum, Hamadi also warned that "Iran will face from our side full preparedness to confront any behaviour of aggressive aspect."

Velayati responded to this declaring that the 1975 treaty could not be abrogated unilaterally by Iraq. Iranian President Ali Khamenei warned in Tehran that reopening the border issue would result in the dragging on of the negotiations for years "possibly with no result at the end."

Aziz rejected the Iranian arguments during his news conference, claiming it was "Iran that always abrogated previous agreements, imposing new ones by force."

"This reflects the situation in the 17th, 18th, 19th and early in the 20th centuries, right up to present times," he added. Aziz said Iran abrogated the 1967 agreement in 1969, a year after Iraq's ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party came to power.

He added that there was no agreement in force between 1969 and 1975 and that after the overthrow of the Shah in 1979 the new Iranian government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini started violating the 1975 agreement. "Our position is that the Iranian government never recognised the Algiers agreement. It violated it severely in 1979-80 and that is why Iraq was obliged to consider it null and void," he added.

The Soviets are not sure that the PLO is close to accepting U.N. Resolution 242 but they are talking about an internal struggle in the PLO that will carry it to major decisions of historic proportions," Novik told the radio.

Several top PLO leaders hinted in recent weeks at their movement's impending readiness to recognise Israel's existence.

Israel says it will never negotiate with the PLO. But two rising leaders of the Labour Party said Monday that a Labour victory in Israeli elections Nov. 1 could lead to Israeli-PLO talks if the Palestinians recognise Israel's right to exist and halted acts of "terror."

The Baltimore Sun reported Monday that reacting to the last page of events, Secretary of State George Shultz plunged into a policy review that focused on ways to recapture the diplomatic initiative for the United States in the Middle East.

The Sun quoted Reagan administration officials as saying Shultz and his senior adviser on the Middle East, Assistant Secretary Richard Murphy, were meeting unexpectedly at the secretary's California vacation home to examine a list of options that included reshaping the U.S. approach to a regional peace settlement.

Officials said that they did not anticipate any new U.S. moves in the Middle East until after the November presidential election but that the secretary wanted to be positioned for an immediate revival of U.S.-led peace efforts afterward.

Meantime, they said, the secretary needed to be prepared for all likely contingencies that the PLO might produce in the coming weeks as it reexamines its possibilities.

Officials said that they did not anticipate any new U.S. moves in the Middle East until after the November presidential election but that the secretary wanted to be positioned for an immediate revival of U.S.-led peace efforts afterward.

Meantime, they said, the secretary needed to be prepared for all likely contingencies that the PLO might produce in the coming weeks as it reexamines its possibilities.

Officials said that they did not anticipate any new U.S. moves in the Middle East until after the November presidential election but that the secretary wanted to be positioned for an immediate revival of U.S.-led peace efforts afterward.

Officials said that they did not anticipate any new U.S. moves in the Middle East until after the November presidential election but that the secretary wanted to be positioned for an immediate revival of U.S.-led peace efforts afterward.

Officials said that they did not anticipate any new U.S. moves in the Middle East until after the November presidential election but that the secretary wanted to be positioned for an immediate revival of U.S.-led peace efforts afterward.

Key Gaza Muslim leader warns PLO against recognising Israel

GAZA (R) — A senior Islamic leader in the occupied Gaza Strip has warned the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) against recognising Israel.

Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, regarded by both Israeli authorities and Palestinians as the most influential Muslim resistance leader in Gaza, accused the PLO of bowing to Israel out of weakness by considering recognition of the Zionist state.

"The PLO is accepting now what it used to refuse. I tell you they are bowing to Israel right now," Yassin, 51, a wheelchair-bound prayer leader, said in an interview.

He said he did not believe Palestinians living under occupation would accept PLO concessions to Israel except for short-term tactical moves.

"The PLO is in a weak situation. Just as its military wing was cut off in Lebanon, its political wing will be cut off as well. The PLO will give more and more concessions and under (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir's government Israel will give nothing and the Palestinians will gain nothing," he said.

PLO leaders say their organisation is likely to declare an independent state in the Israeli-occupied territories, form a government-in-exile and call for peace talks with Israel in the near future.

The largely secular underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have urged the PLO to launch such a political initiative to win international support for the revolt.

But a growing Islamic resistance movement (Hamas), drawing its inspiration from Yassin, has circulated clandestine leaflets threatening any Palestinian who recognises or talks to Israel.

The movement, particularly strong in Gaza, grew out of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood and has ties to Egyptian Islamic opposition groups, Palestinian sources say.

Jailed by the Israelis in the early 1980s for hiding arms at his mosque, Yassin was freed in a 1985 prisoner exchange with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

He said Israeli secret police, who raided and searched his house at midnight last Friday, threatened to push him in his wheelchair over the border into exile in Lebanon.

Yassin has heavily criticised the PLO leadership in the past but his latest remarks were some of the harshest.

He said that unlike PLO leaders, he did not see how two states — an Israeli and a Palestinian one — could coexist in the same area.

Yassin said the Muslim resistance movement, which staged its first strike in the West Bank last week, was gaining in strength because the PLO was not managing to bring in money to sustain its supporters.

"There is a big difference between those people who work for money and those who work for principles and faith. When those who are paid stop receiving money, they stop working for a certain group. But those who are motivated by their hearts and beliefs go on working," Yassin said.

Suggesting the Islamic movement would eventually supplant secular PLO leadership, he said: "The intifada is only at the beginning, not at the end."

Asked if he regarded the violence of the uprising as constructive, Yassin replied: "If it is based on justice, yes."

Qadhafi accuses own committees of murder

TRIPOLI (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has accused his own revolutionary committees of murdering political opponents.

Addressing a rally of committee members from around Libya Monday night, he said some people had infiltrated the movement and liquidated political opponents.

"The masses have come to hate the revolutionary committees," he said in a speech carried live by radio and television. "Some people infiltrated them... and physically liquidated some elements who were proved to have deviated from the committees," he said.

"Terrorism, if it arises, must be terrorism of the masses and not individual or committee terrorism," he added.

Qadhafi formed the committees in 1977 to defend and lead

his revolution, a unique blend of populist socialism and Islam. Thousands of youths enlisted as members of the committees which had sweeping security and intelligence functions.

Qadhafi ordered the committees to restrict their operations in future to neighbourhood "people's congresses and indicated their days were numbered."

"We want the next phase to be one in which the masses themselves not the revolutionary committees confront the enemies," he said.

The committees would disappear totally when they were no longer needed to guide the masses, he added.

Diplomats said public discontent had risen last year because of harassment by the committees, economic austerity, and an unpopular war with southern neigh-

bour Chad. Libya's General People's Congress (GPC) or parliament passed a human rights charter in June guaranteeing freedom of expression and denouncing the use of violence.

In what diplomats said was a move to shore up popular support, Qadhafi in March bulldozed a prison and freed its inmates, some of whom were believed to be political prisoners.

In his address the 44-year-old Libyan leader denounced mistakes by the committees but gave no details.

"Greater economic freedom"

Referring to the human rights charter, Qadhafi called for greater economic freedom for the private sector and appeared to

favour an easing of the government's monopoly on foreign trade.

"We have helped make a new law to strengthen freedom, to encourage the masses to set up black markets, consumer cooperatives and import and export associations because we want freedom to be strengthened," he said.

He said the black market, which has flourished due to the lack of goods in state stores, was a positive development that showed the people's initiative in meeting their needs.

He envisaged a society "without government, police or army." Libya Thursday celebrates the 19th anniversary of the revolution that overthrew the monarchy and Tripoli has been cleaned and decked with green flags for the occasion.

<p>RESTAURANT CHINA</p> <p>The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan</p> <p>1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Alhijyah Girls School</p> <p>Take away is available</p> <p>Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.</p> <p>6:30-Midnight</p> <p>Tel. 638968</p>	<p>慕堂餐廳</p> <p>MANDARIN</p> <p>Chinese Restaurant</p> <p>The only typical Chinese cuisine in Amman.</p> <p>Chinese Flaming pot is available</p> <p>Take away available</p> <p>Open daily 12:00-1:30 18:00-23:30</p> <p>Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic Bridge</p> <p>Amman, Jordan</p> <p>Tel: 661922</p>	<p>CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT</p> <p>Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket</p> <p>Mongolian Barbeque for Lunch Friday only</p> <p>Tel: 81214</p> <p>Come and taste our specialties</p> <p>Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.</p> <p>6:30-Midnight</p>	<p>CHINESE RESTAURANT</p> <p>TAIWAN TOURISMO</p> <p>Authentic Chinese Food</p> <p>Korean Bar-B-Q</p> <p>Charcoal Flaming Pot</p> <p>Take-away service</p> <p>Open daily Noon - 3:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. - midnight</p> <p>Location: Near 3rd Circle opposite Akilah Hospital</p> <p>Tel: 641093</p>	<p>Kashmir Restaurant</p> <p>FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT</p> <p>Special Executive Lunches</p> <p>Take away service available</p> <p>Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm 7:30-11:30 pm</p> <p>After the Holiday Inn hotel Towards 3rd circle</p> <p>Tel: 659519 659520</p>			
<p>TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL</p> <p>667171/6-670141/4</p> <p>Ext. 223</p>					<p>For all your:</p> <p>Packing, Air Freight Forwarding, Customs Clearance, Door-to-door Service, Ticketing and Reservation needs,</p> <p>please call:</p> <p>AMIN KAWAR & SONS</p> <p>Abdel Hamid Sharaf Street Shmeisani</p> <p>P.O. Box 7806 Amman, Jordan</p> <p>Tel. 604676, 604696</p>	<p>CROWN</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT</p> <p>packing, shipping, forwarding, storage, clearing, door-to-door service</p> <p>Agents all over the world</p> <p>Tel: 684090, 680852</p> <p>Tlx 22205 MESMO JO</p> <p>P.O. Box 92847 AMMAN JORDAN</p>	<p>THE NAME YOU TRUST</p> <p>TOP QUALITY HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES</p> <p>Electrolux</p> <p>SHMAISANT AMMAN</p> <p>TEL 604671</p>

U.S. leading economic indicators fall in July

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The government said Tuesday that its chief forecasting gauge of future economic activity dropped 0.8 per cent in July, the sharpest decline in eight months.

Economists said the fall in the Commerce Department's index of leading economic indicators may be a signal of a pause in what has been booming economic growth this year. But they cautioned against reading too much into a single month's figures.

The July decline was the biggest since last November, when the index dropped 1.0 per cent in the wake of the October stock market crash.

The latest drop was likely to be seen as good news by the stock and bond markets, which have faltered in recent weeks on fears that inflation is heating up.

But the dip follows a 1.4 per

cent jump in the index in June, the biggest increase in 18 months. The Commerce Department revised its estimate for May, calculating now that the indicators were off by 0.7 per cent instead of the previously reported 0.8 per cent.

The government said last week that the U.S. economy, as measured by the gross national product, grew at an annual rate of 3.3 per cent in the April-June quarter, following a 3.4 per cent expansion pace in the first three months of the year.

This strong growth has raised concern at the Federal Reserve Board, the U.S. central bank, which is charged with keeping

inflation under control.

The Fed has been pushing up short-term interest rates since late March in an attempt to slow growth to a sustainable, non-inflationary pace. On Aug. 9, it took its most dramatic inflation-fighting move by raising the discount rate, its key bank lending rate, by a half percentage point.

Since then, analysts have been watching government economic statistics closely for indications of whether the Fed has tightened enough.

In July, the weakness in the leading indicators was widespread, with seven of the available nine components registering declines.

The biggest drain came from an 11.3 per cent jump in unemployment claims. That was followed in order of severity by a drop in new orders for consumer goods.

Deadline for insurance firms to abide by new rules expires

AMMAN (J.T.) — A deadline fixed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade for insurance companies to abide by a set of new regulations expires Wednesday and the ministry intends to cancel the licences issued to those which fail to meet the deadline, a ministry statement said Tuesday.

The ministry had requested all insurance companies operating in the Kingdom to submit statements about their accounts between Sept. 1, 1987 and the end of August 1988 and that these statements should be sent in to

the ministry by Sept. 15, 1988.

The ministry's regulations also stipulate that every insurance company should collect by Aug. 31, 1988, annual premiums equal to five times the company's deposit with the Ministry of Industry and Trade except for those companies that are in the process of merger.

Tuesday's statement said that 21 insurance companies had already decided to merge and that only nine, including three foreign companies, had not de-

cided on any merger deal.

Companies wishing to merge have until Wednesday noon to inform the ministry of their decision and all companies have until Sept. 15 to collect its premiums from the insured, according to the statement.

Last April, a report in the local press said that insurance companies operating in Jordan collected a total of JD 55,456,000 in premiums during 1986 and 1987 and paid compensation totalling JD 12,573,000 to beneficiaries during the period.

Tarawneh outlines tax exemptions

AMMAN — During the fourth Jordanian expatriate conference, Salman Al Tarawneh, director of the Income Tax Department, delivered a speech in which he welcomed the expatriates and explained the incentives provided by the tax law as well as other Jordanian laws. Following is a summary of the incentives that were explained by the director:

— Income derived from agriculture, afforestation or from cattle, poultry, fish or bee breeding including income from simple processing of these products is totally exempted from tax.

— Capital gains are totally exempted from tax. Capital gains comprise profits derived from sale and purchase of real estate, shares and bonds.

— Thirty per cent of rental income derived from renting real estate within the capital district and 50 per cent of rental income in other areas is tax exempt.

— Dividends distributed by companies, interest on treasury bills, interest on deposits at banks and financial companies and income from saving plans, pension salaries and social security are all exempted from tax.

— Income derived from a concession granted by the government is tax exempt.

— Income expressly exempted by the Encouragement of Investment Law and bilateral or multilateral investment encouragement agreements concluded by

the government is tax exempt.

— Exemptions that are granted by Law No. 34 from 1980 Industrial Estates Corporation Law. Industrial projects established in an industrial estate enjoy a two-year tax holiday including social welfare tax from the start of production date.

In his speech Tarawneh reminded the audience that Jordanian laws and regulations deal with Arab and foreign capital similarly to the Jordanian capital.

The Income Tax Department's participation in the conference underlined the general attention given to the expatriates in urge them to invest in their home country, Jordan — Dajani and Aladein Tax Brief.

Cypriots wonder if economic miracle can benefit all

By Katherine McElroy
Reuter

NICOSIA — South of the green line dividing Nicosia, glass-sided office towers, shopping centres and apartment blocks are springing up.

On the other side of the United Nations-patrolled buffer zone, the capital is shabbier and visibly less prosperous.

The city reflects the economic gulf between Turkish-Cypriot north Cyprus and Greek-Cypriot south as the two sides prepare for talks in September on renouncing the island.

Any successful solution seems to hinge on the south's "economic miracle" working its way north.

Economists estimate Turkish-Cypriot per capita income in the breakaway state at about a third of the south's \$6,800.

"Turkish Cypriots have shown good growth rates in the last two years due to favourable external factors. But their market is too small and their economic policies are constraining them," one Greek-Cypriot economist said.

"If the favourable climate is maintained the potential exists for further development. But they are unlikely to close the gap since the south is expanding rapidly," he added.

The Turkish-Cypriot economy, in which the Turkish lira is used, struggles with high inflation imported from Turkey and a shortage of foreign exchange. Turkey keeps it afloat with aid.

Annual inflation in the north is running at around 75 per cent compared with 3.4 per cent in the south, the economist said. He said investments in the north tended to be speculative and not conducive to long-term development.

Some 200,000 Greek Cypriots fled south in 1974 when the Turkish army occupied the north after a brief coup in Nicosia promoted by the Greek junta of the day. Foreign experts describe the recovery since then as an economic miracle.

Tourism, the main industry, is booming. The number of long-stay visitors rose to 608,000 in the first half of this year, 17.5 per cent up on the same period in 1987.

In 1983 Turkish-Cypriots declared the Turkish republic of northern Cyprus but only Ankara recognises it.

In Geneva Aug. 24 Cyprus President George Vassiliou and Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş agreed to start talks on setting up a federal republic. Under any agreement, each side would run many of its affairs independently and the extent of possible future economic integration is unclear.

Mustafa Akici, mayor of Nicosia's Turkish sector and leader of the north's opposition communal Liberation Party, told Reuters: "I see it (economic development) as a necessity to make a federal republic survive. The inequality or the imbalance of both sides will be the main obstacle for the future."

Vassiliou confident

Vassiliou, a self-made millionaire, says Turkish Cypriots will catch up economically under a federation.

"I can guarantee that in less than five years... the standard of living of the Turkish Cypriots will be several times higher," he told northern reporters before leaving for Geneva for his meeting with Denktaş in August.

But some Turkish Cypriots are sceptical.

"Turkey has for years handed out her money and it has not been enough for us. Will his (Vassiliou's) be enough?" one news-

paper asked.

Greek-Cypriot economist Costas Apostolides, writing in the Cyprus Mail, called this type of thinking the "aid syndrome." He urged that aid be used to finance productive investments.

The search for profit and higher wages, as well as new economic opportunities after a political solution, would raise Turkish-Cypriot living standards, he added.

Greek Cypriots say they have succeeded despite losing 38 per cent of the island, including the most productive sections.

The Turkish Cypriots, 19 per cent of the total population of almost 700,000, say they have suffered from a lack of diplomatic recognition and an economic embargo promoted by Greek Cypriots.

Apostolides blamed economic policies more and said there was effectively no ban on trade. He quoted Turkish Cypriots as saying they had trading links with over 60 countries.

Issue of settlers

He said the arrival in the north of thousands of Turkish settlers from the mainland caused economic problems since they had lower productivity rates.

Ozger Ozgur, leader of the north's main opposition Republican Turkish Party, estimated the number of settlers at between 45,000 and 50,000.

He told Reuters recently they were causing problems by changing the demography of the community and upsetting the wage system because they worked for very little.

After a settlement those who had married Turkish Cypriots might be allowed to stay under international law, he said. But he thought Turkey would be persuaded to withdraw the rest.

"When there is a solution, the legal tender will be the Cyprus pound, no doubt, and we shall have a more stable currency with stable prices," he said.

"Wages will go up and come to the level of wages in the south and the Turkish-Cypriot working people including the farmers will benefit from this," Ozgur said.

Oil found inside Paris limits

PARIS (AP) — Oil has been found beneath a Paris suburb, and officials with the state-controlled oil company ELF aquitaine say they are encouraged by the success of their first wildcat well in the capital.

Exploratory drilling began three weeks ago on a permit granted to the Societe Nationale Elf Aquitaine for the Paris-Isle-de-France region.

"After the seismic tests we did, we figured we would find something," oil company spokesman Thomas Saunders said Monday. "But we thought there was maybe one chance out of six or seven. Everybody's very pleased, of course, that we found something the first time."

ELF Aquitaine holds a 50 per cent share of the permit with Total-Compagnie Francaise des Petroles owning 35 per cent and British Petroleum (B.P.) France holding the rest. The permit was awarded in December 1985.

The ELF-Total-B.P. joint venture already has spent \$11.6 million on the permit to drill, most of it for seismic tests, ELF's chief of French operations, Bruno Weymuller, said in an interview earlier this month.

"It was important to find oil to show that we are right to be drilling in the region," said Patrick Oberio, director of exploration for B.P. France.

The Paris basin, which contains 40 million tonnes (6.3 million barrels) of known oil reserves, 48 operating wells and about 600 exploratory wells, has a discovery rate of one in 12 wells. The Paris basin extends eastward to the West German frontier.

The first Paris well produced 4.4 cubic metres of oil with small quantities of water during a test at a depth of 1,972 metres. The well was drilled in the suburb of Ivry, on the left bank of the Seine River about 500 metres from the elevated freeway that encircles Paris.

Ivry 101 was drilled at an angle, and the oil-bearing rock was struck under an apartment building across the Seine in the adjacent suburb of Alfortville, the company said.

Saunders said the oil was found Friday and that tests Sunday confirmed oil was present in the rock. More tests will be conducted over the next 10 days to determine the quality of the oil and the extent of the find.

"We haven't found a lagoon of oil... it is all impregnated in stone and we need to figure out if it will be economically feasible to produce it," Saunders said.

Ivry 101 is the first of several exploratory wells to be drilled in the suburb north, south and east of Paris. About 60 workers remain at the site and drilling continues around the clock at a rate of about 50 metres a day, the company said.

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

AMF may lend to Egypt, Syria, Iraq

ABU DHABI (R) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) said Monday it was considering lending 4.6 million Arab accounting dinars (\$18 million) to Egypt and 3.9 million dinars (\$15 million) to Syria. Officials of the Abu Dhabi-based fund, which groups the 21 members of the Arab League, also told Reuters that a loan of an unspecified sum was being negotiated with Iraq. They gave out other details of the loans.

\$1.25b Texaco settlement okayed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Energy Department said Monday it had given final approval to an agreement with Texaco Corp. calling for \$1.25 billion in payments to the government over 5½ years to settle accusations of overcharging for price-controlled crude oil. The settlement, details of which were announced in February, is the second-largest in the government's long campaign to recover overcharges in the years from 1973 to 1981, when crude oil was subject to price controls. Only \$2.1 billion paid by Exxon Corp. was larger. With the Texaco payment, the government will have recovered more than \$7 billion. The government originally sought \$2.1 billion from Texaco on similar grounds: that, like Exxon, Texaco had pumped oil from old wells under price controls and sold it at a higher price from newly drilled wells exempt from controls.

Iran's mineral exports reach \$90m

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran exported \$90 million worth of minerals in the past year, the minister of mines and metals announced Monday. Minister Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi announced that Iran dug out 45 million tonnes of minerals from 780 mines during the fiscal year that ended March 20, according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency. Of those, almost 500,000 tonnes were sold abroad for a little over \$90 million, Ayatollahi said, including copper, coal and chromite.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday rates: Local sell/buy rates in Jds				
Belgian franc (for 100)	95.30	96.20	Saudi riyal	104.00/ 105.00
Dutch guilder	176.60	178.40	Syrian lira (for JD 1)	98.00/ 100.00
French franc	58.50	59.40	Lebanese lira (for JD 1)	340.00/ 350.00
Italian lira (for 100)	26.90	27.20	Iraqi dinar	1370.00/ 1380.00
Japanese yen (for 100)	278.10	280.90	Kuwait dinar	168.00/ 172.00
Swedish crown	57.80	58.40	Egyptian pound	106.50/ 107.50
Swiss franc	236.40	238.80	Qatari riyal	106.00/ 107.00
U.S. sterling pound	630.20	636.50	UAE dirham	1010.00/ 1020.00
U.S. dollar	373.40	377.40	Omani riyal	1030.00/ 1040.00
Deutschmark	199.50	201.50	Bahraini dinar	

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for August 30, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	619603	JD 409652	596
Top three companies:			
Jordan Brick and Lime	152500	JD 31430	49
Darco for Investment and Housing	96487	JD 29650	67
Finance and Credit	47301	JD 27406	73
Parallel market:	302	JD 1066	—
Development bonds:	246	JD 876956	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	663191	Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation	603507
Ministry of Supply	602121	Free Zones Corporation	642001
Ministry of Finance	636321	Amman Financial Market	660170
Ministry of Planning	644466	Commerce Chamber of Amman	666151
Ministry of Labour	663186	Amman Chamber of Industry	644747
Ministry of Communications	847391	Association of Banks in Jordan	662258
Ministry of Agriculture	635591	Jordan Association of Insurance Companies	647370
Income Tax Department	660151	General Securities Department	846171
Central Bank of Jordan	630301	Jordanian Businessmen Association	680663
Amman Customs Department	772181		
Social Security Corporation	643000		
Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation	721194		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			
One Sterling	1.6835/45	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.2403/10	Canadian dollar	
	1.8705/16	Deutschmarks	
	2.1120/30	Dutch guilders	
	1.5775/85	Swiss francs	
	39.19/22	Belgian francs	
	6.3490/3520	French francs	
	1388/1389	Italian lire	
	134.38/48	Japanese yen	
	6.4600/50	Swedish crowns	
	6.9080/9130	Norwegian crowns	
	7.1965/2015	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	425.90/426.40	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The share market turned around from its downward drift to close higher but trading remained thin and choppy. The All Ordinaries Index rose 10.0 to 1,579.1.

TOKYO — Prices closed higher with a late afternoon rally bringing the market out of its lull. The Nikkei index rose 132.55 to 27,511.65.

HONG KONG — Prices closed sharply lower after lacklustre trading. One broker said cut-loss selling by some fund managers pulled the market down. The Hang Seng Index shed 25.28 to 2,439.55.

SINGAPORE — The market rebounded in the afternoon to wipe out earlier losses and close marginally higher. The Straits Times Industrial Index was down by 0.09 at 1,020.21.

BOMBAY — Prices closed mixed after institutional investors returned to the market and offset early losses.

FRANKFURT — Prices firmed across the board, boosted by small gains on Wall Street and interim results from the steel company Hoesch AG. The 30-share Dax index rose 13.15 to 1,165.53.

ZURICH — The stable dollar and Wall Street's gains encouraged some buying and the market closed slightly firmer. The All-Share Swiss Index gained 2.5 to 888.6.

PARIS — Prices were firm in quiet trade, holding on to early gains on bargain-hunting after recent losses. The 30-share bourse indicator rose by 0.50 pct.

CHINESE COMMODITIES FAIR

Open at 6 p.m. on Aug. 31. Sell and show orthodox Chinese goods cheap but of the best quality. You are welcome.

Address: Second floor, Housing Bank Complex Building
Tel: 687935

COMPUTER FOR SALE

128K Sinclair QL computer with monitor and printer interface. Programs included: Word processing, data base, graphics, etc. JD 140.

Also German Lumiprint photo-copier JD 55

Tel: 641559

Y.W.C.A.

Morning and afternoon classes

Yoga classes - three times a week - JD 15 monthly.
Prenatal classes - twice a week - JD 10 monthly.
Exercise classes - three times a week - JD 12 monthly.

For more information please call YWCA, Tel: 641119 - 641793 - 655475

FOR RENT

A furnished villa consisting of two floors and a roof. First floor: living room, salon and dining room with kitchen and guest bathroom. Second floor: Three bedrooms with two bathrooms and small sitting room plus the roof. A big garden and car garage.
Location: Abdoun Area.

For information contact: Tel: 824280

PART-TIME FEMALE SECRETARY WANTED

Foreign part-time female secretary to work for 4 - 5 hours a day, preferably German speakers.

Call Tel: 654301, 654302

FURNISHED APARTMENT IN SHMEISANI FOR RENT

Modern, three bedrooms in excellent and clean shape. New paint, new wall-to-wall carpet, excellent finishing. Located close to shopping and office areas west of the Professional Associations complex. The apartment is ready for occupancy with full services: heat, running water, electricity, intercom and telephone. Other specifications include large living-dining room, two bathrooms, balcony, kitchen, new television and new washing machine.

Call: 604922, 662862

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

A cosy and tastefully decorated two/three bedroom apartment overlooking Sports City, available for yearly lease. Excellent finishing and complete with all new furniture, wall-to-wall carpet, central heating, Hi-Fi, phone, VCR, spacious kitchen, washer, dryer, dishwasher and adjacent garden. European expatriates in building. Full time attendant on premises.

Telephone: 661880

FOR RENT

Deluxe fully-furnished part of villa; consists of 2 bedrooms, salon, dining room, guest room, kitchen, full carpeting, colour T.V. & telephone, with central heating.
Location: Abdoun.

Tel: 632981, Amman

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

EXTREM PREJUDICE

Performances: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 11:30

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

TO LIVE AND DIE IN L.A.

Performances: 7:15, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUN

DELIVERY BOYS

Performances: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 11:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

JUST ONE OF THE GUYS

Performances: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 11:30

Warsaw ready for talks with Walesa

WARSAW (R) — The Polish government said Tuesday it was ready to include Solidarity leader Lech Walesa in talks on Poland's future as soon as he left a strike-bound Gdansk shipyard and the strike was called off.

"The ending of the strike by Lech Walesa and the (Lenin) shipyard would automatically mean convening round-table talks," government spokesman Jerzy Urban said.

Walesa's presence at the talks would indicate that he represented a mass movement, Urban added. The authorities have dismissed him as a non-person since they outlawed the Solidarity free trade union in 1982.

Round-table talks with the opposition were proposed last Friday by Interior Minister General Czeslaw Kiszczak. The proposal was approved at the weekend by the Communist Party's policy-making central committee.

"One may expect that Lech Walesa will be among those sitting down to the round table," Urban said in reply to a question at his weekly news conference.

Kiszczak said the talks would be without preconditions. Participants could include all sides except for those who "rejected the constitutional order of Poland," he said.

Urban's announcement came at the start of the third week of Poland's worst wave of labour

unrest since Communist leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski imposed martial law in 1981 in a bid to crush Solidarity.

"It is a matter of reaching an agreement amid the conditions of a subsiding conflict in a manner that would offend no one," Urban said.

"A discussion on ways of solving Polish problems will be in my opinion a common victory."

The strike wave that erupted Aug. 15 has hit Poland's currenty-earning coal output and halted work at two major ports — Gdansk and Szczecin.

Strikes have subsided in the past week but stoppages are still underway at one coalmine, a southern steel mill, a Szczecin bus depot and three Gdansk shipyards.

Walesa told journalists Monday he was ready to join talks with the authorities unconditionally as soon as they indicated readiness to discuss recognising Solidarity.

Asked whether this could be discussed at the round table Urban said there were no preconditions and the agenda would be open.

"As far as the order and scope of the talks are concerned, this is open to agreement by the participants in the discussions," he said.

General Kiszczak, a close confidant of Jaruzelski, has been designated by the authorities to lead the government team at the talks. He is a member of the Communist Party Politburo, the Central Committee and the government.

"He is a very good and very effective negotiator," Urban said.

Representatives of the official, Communist-led Opozycja Trade Union Federation would attend the talks, Urban added. However, preliminary discussions would be held with the opposition to decide on the choice of other participants.

Walesa was inside the Lenin shipyard and journalists were unable to reach him immediately for his response to Urban's statement.

He and other opposition figures have said repeatedly the government cannot push through its crucial economic reform programme without reaching a consensus with the people through talks with Solidarity and the Catholic opposition.

"I think this time they're really going to have some talks with the opposition," a Western diplomat commented.

"It looks like this time it may get to actual negotiations, but I don't know how much that really means."



An elderly Buddhist monk addresses a group of demonstrators near Rangoon's Shwedagon pagoda complex

Burma alliance plans democracy strategy

RANGOON (R) — A new self-proclaimed alliance of Burmese elder statesmen met Tuesday to map out a strategy to guide their impoverished nation away from political and social turmoil to a multi-party democracy.

The 21-member Alliance for Democracy and Peace, which includes a former president, prime minister and defence minister, has sought to seize the initiative in a power vacuum caused by the retreat of the Socialist Party after 26 years of rule.

Prominent members of the alliance, including Tin Oo, who was sacked as defence minister and jailed in 1976 after being named in a plot against Socialist leader Ne Win, have called for an interim government to lead the country away from single party rule.

Scattered anti-government demonstrations, dampened by torrential rains, continued Tuesday.

Protesters demanded the immediate fall of the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) and its chairman Maung Maung, the third leader in a month of nation-

al insurrection in which the security forces shot dead thousands of demonstrators, according to diplomats.

Diplomats said Tin Oo, 72, emerged as a key figure in the alliance, whose patron is U Nu, the prime minister overthrown by Ne Win's 1962 coup. U Nu was exiled but returned under an amnesty in 1980 following an unsuccessful attempt to mount an armed revolt against Ne Win.

They said students, who have spearheaded the mass demonstrations and who declared a national student federation Sunday, took part in initiating the alliance.

One Western ambassador called the formation of the alliance and student federation a major step. "People are now looking at what they have to do. That is a big change from a week ago," he said.

Maung Maung has called an emergency party congress Sept. 12 and said he and the entire BSPP leadership will resign if it does not agree to a referendum on ending 26 years of one-party rule.

U.N. urges states to ban child porn

GENEVA (R) — A United Nations panel urged states Monday to make child pornography a crime after hearing complaints that sexual abuse of children was increasing around the world.

A five-member working group on contemporary Forms of Slavery released a report saying private groups had cited allegations of abuse in Belgium, Britain, France, Japan and the Ivory Coast.

The 32-page document quoted the Paris-based International Abolitionist Federation as telling the panel that there was a general increase in child pornography, child prostitution and sexual abuse of children.

This was caused by moral degradation of society, poverty, break-up of families, and parents abandoning children, said the Federation, founded in 1875 to combat prostitution.

The report said U.N. member states should pass laws, "where they have not already done so, making it a crime to produce, distribute or possess pornographic material involving children."

The International Abolitionist

Federation told the panel there had been a big increase in reports of child abuse in Britain, and it said French authorities were lax in dealing with violators of children.

The federation also cited Belgian newspaper reports that about 1,600 young people in Brussels were affected by abuse. But a Belgian government observer said only 30 cases of minors working as prostitutes had been reported to the authorities.

The Federation said local customs were among factors leading young Ivory Coast children to become prostitutes. Along with an international Catholic group, Pax Romana, the Federation said Filipino girls as young as 14 turned prostitutes in Japan after being lured there by false promises of legitimate work.

The panel said the London-based Anti-Slavery Society had informed it of reports alleging that babies were being kidnapped in Thailand and smuggled to Malaysia. Police had arrested some 60 kidnappers, but no Thai government agency seemed to be charged with ending the trafficking, the reports said.

Authorities have difficulty identifying air show dead

RAMSTEIN, West Germany (AP) — Authorities reported difficulties Tuesday in identifying the dead from the Ramstein air disaster, saying that only three identities were certain.

The crash of three Italian stunt jets Sunday at the U.S. air base in Ramstein killed between 43 and 46 people, and injured about 500 others.

The mortuary people are having trouble with the identifications, Ramstein spokesman Sergeant Eddie Lee said. "It will be some time before we have full list of the dead."

Many of the dead were burned beyond recognition as a huge fireball swept over them.

The U.S. military radio network AFN said 46 people were killed. Hans-Juergen Vollmer, the spokesman for the nearby Kaiserslautern district government, said the West German count of dead stood at 43 of Tuesday morning.

"Of them, only three have been identified," Vollmer told the AP in a telephone interview. "But we haven't been notified of the nationalities of the three."

Marie Shaw, spokeswoman for the U.S. army hospital in Landstuhl near Ramstein, said a five-

member team of burn specialists from the Brooke Army Medical centre in San Antonio, Texas, was completing a second examination of the 12 American patients at Landstuhl.

The doctors still have to decide when some of those who will be treated in the United States can leave," Shaw said.

Shaw said the 12 in the Landstuhl hospital, located about 15 kilometres from Ramstein, included several children and a number of other civilians as well as military personnel.

All were suffering from "serious burns," she said.

"Some are critical," she added. The specialists may also visit civilians in several other large hospitals in neighbouring towns, including Kaiserslautern.

Of the 345 people hospitalised from the Ramstein disaster, there was no official tally of nationalities. Most of those attending the ill-fated air show in southwestern Germany were West Germans and Americans.

West German newspapers gave prominent coverage to the orders from Defence Minister Rupert Scholz in Bonn, temporarily banning military air shows and banning German military participation in stunt flying.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

5 killed, 52 hurt in Austria crash

VIENNA (AP) — Five people were killed and 52 injured when two trains crashed head-on Monday in western Austria less than five kilometres from the West German border, Austrian railroad and rescue officials said. The accident was probably due to human error, Heinrich Uehls, general director of the Austrian Railroad Authority, said on Austrian television.

Seoul apologises to journalist

SEOUL (R) — South Korea dismissed its army intelligence chief and charged two generals in connection with an attack on a journalist who criticised the military, the defence ministry said Tuesday. A four-man military squad led by a major was arrested last week for a knife attack on Oh Hong-Kyun, city editor of the JoongAng Economic Daily, who wrote an article citing the army as the source of many national problems.

Natal fighting kills 6

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Six black men were killed in factional fighting and clashes with police in Natal province, police said Tuesday, bringing the death toll of Zulus to 19 in two days. At Molweni, outside Durban, where residents had said 10 blacks were killed Sunday, most of them mutilated in fights over scarce land, police reported another four men had died Monday.

Yellow fever claims 20 in Niger

LAGOS (AP) — A yellow fever epidemic has claimed at least 20 lives in the northern state of Niger, most of them children, Nigerian national television reported Monday night. The government-run television said the death toll could reach 100 before the spread of the disease is halted. Teams of government doctors were being shuttled to the affected villages in helicopters.

Post says Soviets back in Kunduz

WASHINGTON (R) — Soviet forces have returned to the north Afghanistan city of Kunduz after pulling out two weeks ago in the general withdrawal of Soviet forces from that country, the Washington Post said Tuesday. In a story from Islamabad, Pakistan, it quoted Western diplomats as saying the Soviet forces were apparently ordered back to Kunduz in the past three days by officials in Moscow who were embarrassed by the city's temporary fall to rebels.

Panama police break up protest

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Police fired birdshot and threw tear-gas grenades to break up a street demonstration Monday by students upset with a shortage of school supplies. At least four protesters were slightly wounded, witnesses said, but no arrests were reported. The rally began when about 300 students at the industrial arts school began demonstrating outside the school to protest shortages of textbooks and other school supplies.

'UNITA killed 7 missionaries'

LISBON (R) — UNITA rebels ambushed and killed seven Angolan missionaries and an infant on a rural road in the central province of Huambo, the official Angolan news agency ANGOP reported Tuesday. Their lorry was indiscriminately machine-gunned near Quingange last Thursday. Seven mission workers and a child were killed.

COLUMN 8

Post: Cockroach story won't die

JERUSALEM (R) — The Jerusalem Post said Monday it would not retract a news story about an Israeli housewife's battle with a cockroach which landed her husband in hospital, despite questions about its authenticity. Foreign news agencies, which quoted the newspaper last Thursday, challenged the report after suggestions that it sounded remarkably similar to stories which had been previously published elsewhere. The item said a frightened wife threw a cockroach into a toilet and sprayed insecticide on it when it refused to die. It said her husband later dropped a cigarette butt into the lavatory, igniting the fumes and "seriously burning his sensitive parts." "So far I have grounds to assume the roach really existed and refused to die, and that's why the story refused to die," editor Ari Rath told Reuters.

'Tap-o-mania' strikes

NEW YORK (AP) — This one-day extravaganza had a cast of 4,497 hopefuls who danced their way into the record books in the 10th annual tap-o-mania event. The tap-dancers, from as far away as India, Japan, Italy, the Netherlands, West Germany and Israel, gathered under Macy's department store to get into the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest assemblage of tap-dancers. Dancing to "There's No Business Like Show Business," the Hoofers broke the record of 4,000 set in Glasgow, Scotland, last year. Macy's held the record before that with a gathering of 3,783 tap-dancers in 1986. "I've always wanted to be on Broadway and this is the closest I'll ever come," said Donna Kestel of Louisiana.

'One-of-a-kind' thief

LOS ANGELES (R) — A so-called "telephone handit" was alleged Monday to have robbed call boxes of nearly one million dollars in coins. James Clark, 48, a fugitive since an arrest warrant was issued at Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, in November 1985, was arrested by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents in Los Angeles during the weekend. A federal magistrate Monday ordered that he be held without bail. Clark is charged with receiving stolen property, a device which allowed him to empty telephone boxes of nearly \$1 million. U.S. Assistant Prosecutor Alice Hall said.

Stars warn against drinking, driving

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Malcolm Warner of "The Cosby Show" is among 16 young television and film stars who have posed for a calendar that warns against mixing drinking and driving. The entertainers cooperated with the Los Angeles chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD), which said the calendar, aimed at teenagers, is a first of its kind. "If it makes people think twice about getting into a car drunk, I think it's great," said Dustin Nguyen of the programme "21 Jump Street," adding "I think it's definitely going to have an effect."

British fans mark Jackson's birthday

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than 90,000 British fans joined in a 30th birthday salute to pop music star Michael Jackson, who spurs such anniversaries but graciously acknowledges the fans' spontaneous gestures. He doesn't celebrate birthdays, but more than 90,000 people rose to the occasion tonight (Monday night) and sang "Happy Birthday" to him, "our spokesman Bob Jones said Monday in a telephone interview from backstage at Round Hay Park in Leeds, England. "Of course, he was forced to acknowledge it."

Fred MacMurray turns 80

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fred MacMurray, recovering from a stroke, celebrates his 80th birthday with a small, private party held at his Brentwood home by his wife of 34 years, former actress June Haver. "If life begins at 40, he's only 40," his wife said by telephone. "He's very happy to be 80 years old. Many of his friends are older, you know. He looks at George Burns (92) and Bob Hope (85) and he says, 'gee, I feel like a kid.'" Among his most popular films were "Double Indemnity," "The Shaggy Dog," "The Absent-Minded Professor," "The Caine Mutiny," "Miracle of the Bells" and "Fair Wind to Java." He also played a widowed father in the television series "My Three Sons" from 1960 to 1972.

Military chiefs expected to name Pinochet for Chile poll

SANTIAGO (R) — President Augusto Pinochet, Chile's absolute ruler for the past 15 years, was expected to be named by his fellow military chiefs Tuesday as the sole candidate in the upcoming presidential election.

The 72-year-old general, already in power longer than any leader since Chile's independence in 1818, could extend his rule a further eight years if he wins the single-candidate "yes" or "no" election in early October.

Some 20 women were arrested Monday during an anti-Pinochet demonstration in central Santiago and opposition groups called more protests.

Pinochet, who holds the posts of army commander and president, will join the chiefs of the navy, air force and militarised police at midday to formally

select the candidate. Few doubt Pinochet will be the choice to be announced in the early evening.

"The artificially solemn climate (which surrounds) the act is totally senseless, it is more suitable to an opera," said Socialist leader Ricardo Lagos.

A spokesman for 16 opposition parties united in a campaign to defeat the government candidate, urged the military Monday to reconsider.

"They have to (choose) between the path of peace and understanding that the great majority want... or the logic of war that Pinochet represents," said Patricio Aylwin, president of the centrist Christian Democratic Party.

Local Roman Catholic church leaders have also called on the government to negotiate with

their political opponents on a consensus candidate.

Although other military chiefs previously said they preferred a civilian candidate, Pinochet enjoys the unbending support of the army, by far the strongest branch of the armed forces.

The only question apparently remaining was whether Pinochet will stand down from the army command prior to the poll, as some supporters want, or delay a decision until after the October voting.

Pinochet took power in a bloody 1973 coup in which the elected Marxist President Salvador Allende died. Thousands were killed, imprisoned or sent into exile.

The military has been criticised abroad over persistent allegations of human rights abuses

Ceausescu-Grosz meeting fails to settle minority row

VIENNA (AP) — The first meeting in 11 years between the leaders of Romania and Hungary has apparently done little to resolve differences over the lot of the Hungarian minority in Romania — an issue seriously straining relations between the two Soviet bloc allies.

Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu and Karoly Grosz, his Hungarian counterpart, held intensive discussions on controversial issues Sunday for nearly nine hours in the Romanian town of Arad.

But they apparently could not defuse centuries-old tensions related to Transylvania, an area long disputed between the two nations.

The sudden one-day meeting provided an opportunity for Grosz to discuss Hungary's concern

over the fate of the 1.7 million ethnic Hungarians who live in the province, now Romanian but formerly Hungarian. Budapest claims they suffer from discriminatory policies.

Among Hungarian concerns are a Romanian plan to demolish more than half of the country's 7,000 villages and replace them by so-called agro-industrial centres as part of an ongoing land reform. Hungary says many of those resettled under the plan will be ethnic Hungarians, whose traditional way of life will be destroyed.

There was no official word after Sunday's meeting that the resettlement project, to be completed by the year 2000, would be abandoned or at least revised.

Territorial rivals for centuries, the two neighbours became formal allies after World War II,

when both joined the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact military alliance. But historical ill feeling was never completely eradicated.

Post-war bilateral relations deteriorated to an all-time low in June when Ceausescu, angered by a demonstration of 50,000 people in Budapest against the programme ordered the closure of a Hungarian consulate in Romania.

In an implicitly critical move, Hungary has taken the unprecedented step of accepting some 17,000 refugees from Romania, a majority of them ethnic Hungarians.

Ceausescu praised the "new beginning" represented by the Arad meeting, Romania's state news agency Agerpres reported. But there was no word of concrete pledges.

Manneken Pis answers nature's call for 600 years

By Robert J. Wieland
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The little fellow defiantly assumed the position some 600 years ago.

Since 1388 or thereabouts, Manneken Pis has been answering nature's longest call at a Brussels street corner.

The water that has flowed from Brussels' most favourite son since then is no piddling matter.

For Antoine Demol, president of the Order of Friends of Manneken Pis, it's reason enough to throw a two-day bash starting Sept. 3 with marching bands, dixieland music, majorettes and folklore events in the downtown area where Manneken Pis tinkles, rain or shine.

First-time visitors to the "Little Man" are bound to be disappointed. His height, 53 centimetres, is in no relation to his reputation as the strangest statue anywhere, or to his legendary roots.

Nor, for that matter, to the epidemic of souvenir shops across the street selling Man-

neken Pis coasters. Manneken Pis bottle openers. Manneken Pis commemorative plates. Manneken Pis cork screws. Manneken Pis T-shirts and — get this, party animals — life-size Manneken Pis statues that squirt wine or beer.

From a raised niche at the corner of rue de Chene and rue de l'Etuve, the real one aims into a small basin, smiling tauntingly and leaning ever so slightly backward.

Few statues can boast a history as checkered as that of the Manneken. "Documents at city hall dating back to 1388 refer to the 30 public fountains which then provided potable water to the citizens of Brussels," said Demol.

"They mention a water pipe feeding 'the Manneken that pisses."

In the 14th century such imagery was considered solid, folksy fun.

Other curious fountains from those days still exist nearby. "The Three Virgins" spout water from their breasts. And "The Spitter" is a man with

water cascading from his mouth.

But who is the Manneken? "His origins are rooted in many legends, some historically more correct than others," said Demol.

One has it that a toddler saved Brussels from a blaze in the 13th century by urinating on the lit fuse of an incendiary bomb.

Another tells of an 1142 battle in which the Duke of Lorraine's troops fell back against moustachios soldiers.

The duke, only an infant, then rose in his cradle that had been suspended from an oak tree and began to pee and so changed his troops' fortunes.

Another legend says an urchin relieved himself against the door of a scroacher who condemned the boy to that stance forever.

Usually, the Manneken piddles in the buff. But you may also catch him in one of 447 costumes that have been bestowed upon him in the past 300 years.

The present statue was cast in

1619. For still unknown reasons, the elector of Bavaria donated a costume for the boy in 1698.

"His second outfit came from King Louis XV of France in 1747 as an apology for his soldiers who damaged the Manneken," said Demol.

Donating outfits became a lasting trend. So far, 447 have been given by governments, service clubs and folklore and trade groups worldwide.

They show the statue in military finery from many nations or dressed as Maurice Chevalier, an American football player, a shriner, a member of the Montreal Canadiens hockey team, a Sioux Indian or as Elvis Presley.

"On Sept. 3, we will give the Manneken his 448th costume, that of the Order of the Friends of Manneken Pis," said Demol.

Manneken Pis has paid a price for his fame. He has been stolen at least seven times, the last time, in 1978, as a student prank.

The culprits got off with a warning. Antoine Lucas was

not so lucky in 1817. He yanked the statue off its base and got 20 years of hard labour.

Demol's 33-year-old order promotes Manneken Pis as Brussel's "goodwill ambassador."

"No one ever complains that the statue is obscene," he said. "And, of course, it isn't."

"The kid is only five. He cannot be obscene. You must understand that to the citizens of Brussels, Manneken Pis symbolises resistance to fanaticism, simple civil disobedience."

A special treat awaits visitors during the two-day festivities around Manneken Pis.

"Several times during those two days," said Demol, "Manneken Pis will serve wine to passersby in his own peculiar way."

If that upsets sensitive souls, they can go around the corner to the city museum on the nearby grand place, Brussels neo-Gothic central square. There, 100 of the Manneken's costumes rotate on permanent exhibit.